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AFGHANISTAN

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2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

– Editor

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1990

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IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN

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NOTES

The quarterly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched documents for the benefit of scholars and policy makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare, socio-political and economic developments.

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Figures of the casualties and material losses given in the Report are only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed of the events.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR) is a Mujahideen Radio Station reportedly based in Mashad.

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during July, August and September 1990.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

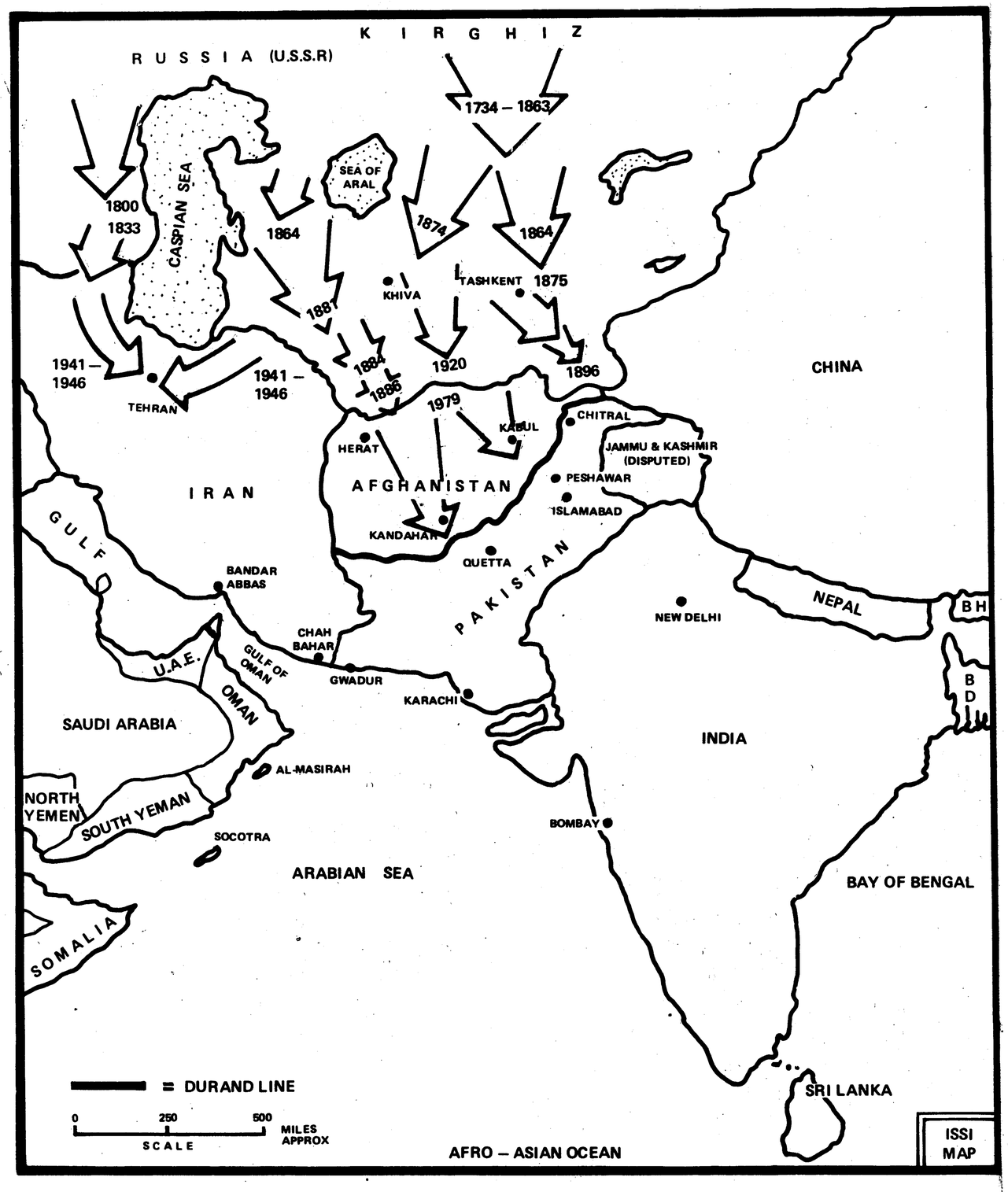
			Page
	The Historical Perspective	.. ISSI Map	
I.	**The Fourth Afghan War**	.. *Hasan Akhtar Gardezi* *Mohammad Ashraf Poswall*	
1.	Afghanistan War Report, August, 1990	... ...	1
2.	Psychological Warfare Themes	... ...	9
3.	Afghanistan War Report, September, 1990	... ...	11
4.	Psychological Warfare Themes	... ...	20
5.	Afghanistan War Report, October, 1990	... ...	21
6.	Psychological Warfare Themes	... ...	28

APPENDICES

1.	Statistical Picture of the Afghan War	... ...	30
2.	Province-wise Engagements in July, 1990	... ...	32
3.	Statistical Picture of the Afghan War	... ...	33
4.	Province-wise Engagements in August, 1990	... ...	35
5.	Statistical Picture of the Afghan War	... ...	36
6.	Province-wise Engagements in September, 1990	...	38

II.	**POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN**	.. *Fazal-ur-Rahman* *Mohammad Umar Khan*	
1.	Political Developments	... ...	41
2.	Economic Reconstruction	... ...	68
3.	Repatriation	... ...	73

THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT
AUGUST 1990

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT
AUGUST 1990

In July 1990, fighting further subsided perceptibly in much of Southern and Northern Afghanistan provinces, but picked up in intensity in Eastern Afghanistan (Ningarhar and Paktiya) and Kabul. But in the latter mentioned parts too the gains of belligerents – if any – were limited, local and temporary. For instance, on July 8, Deputy Defence Minister of the Kabul regime General Mohammad Nabi Azimi claimed at a press conference that Kabul government forces had achieved "complete victory" against Mujahideen in the strategic Paghman valley. Hundreds of rebels, he said, had been killed and thousands of others pushed out from their bases in the hills. Yet, even as he was addressing the press conference rockets began hitting the Capital. Bombardment of Kabul from the direction of Paghman continued for the rest of the month. It looks like the guerillas had pulled back from some of their forward positions in the vicinity of the Kargah Lake by a margin of a few kilometres. Otherwise, they were very much there in Paghman. Evidently, Kabul regime's much vaunted mopping up campaign, lasting more than three months, did not produce intended effects.

According to General Azimi more than 3,000 soldiers had taken part in this operation. They were supported by seventy heavy pieces of artillery and two "units" of the Air Force.

Mujahideen sources indicated on July 23 that hand-to-hand fighting was taking place around Zargar Pass in the northern half of Paghman Valley. Both sides had gained and lost some positions alternately, and suffered heavy casualties.

Earlier Western media representatives in Kabul reported fresh clashes on the Salang Highway linking Afghanistan with the Soviet Union. One area of conflict thus mentioned was at a distance of a few miles from the Panjsher Valley where elements loyal to Ahmed Shah Masud hold their sway and often organize raids into the adjoining provinces of Parwan and Baghlan. Parwan and Baghlan lie on the Salang Highway.

In Paktiya province, the Mujahideen captured another "important" Kabul regime security post at Shalka, 5 km south of Khost. Shalka was described to be within the Inner Security Belt of the garrison town. Yet, the position remains that it is holding out against repeated Mujahideen onslaughts.

In the Ningarhar province on July 13 about 1,500 Mujahideen stormed and captured a Kabul regime security post in close vicinity of Jalalabad.

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul, Ghazni

Fighting subsided subsequently in Southern Afghanistan during July. Nimroz and Helmand were quiet, more or less. Qandahar too saw only sporadic clashes in the provincial capital and its Dand and Panjwai suburbs, accounting for the destruction of a tank and killing of some Kabul regime soldiers/militiamen. One of those killed was identified as Colonel Lal Mohammad, commander of a militia battalion.

A local Mujahideen commander in Qandahar (Ismail Gilani of Mahaz-i-Milli) interviewed by BBC said that Mujahideen operations were being handicapped by shortage of "food and equipment".

Meanwhile there were reports of some Afghan refugees returning to Southern Afghanistan from the adjoining Baluchistan (Pakistan) and Siestan (Iran). Ismail Gilani said "almost two or three hundred families are returning every week". He said the Kabul government was providing assistance to the refugees whose houses or shops were destroyed or damaged during the war. He said the Mujahideen, on their part, were not attacking the returning refugees.

There was "Nil War" report from Zabul.

Nevertheless, Ghazni did witness Mujahideen incursions into the security zones of Ghazni city. Here urban guerrillas hit some Army and

KHAD (Secret Police) establishments on July 7 and 23. During the 23rd rocket attack a "power station" was also damaged disconnecting supply of electricity to Ghazni city and cantonment.

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Nooristan

The tempo of fighting picked up both in Paktiya and Ningarhar provinces during July, both sides trying to seize the initiative from their adversaries. But, they seemed to have achieved only limited local successes. On the Khost front, the Mujahideen stormed and captured an important security post some 5 km south of the garrison town. The security post at Shalka was part of what has been called the Inner Defence Line of Khost. Soviet-made fighter-bombers and helicopters heavily shelled Mujahideen positions in the area.

Some western observers who visited Pakistani border town of Miranshah, some 30 km from Khost, said that the sound of explosions originating from and around Khost were clearly heard in Miranshah.

According to BBC – which quoted an American journalist who had gone to Paktiya with the Mujahideen commander Jalaluddin Haqqani – the Khost airport remained under round the clock attacks by the Mujahideen during the later half of July. The journalist saw several wreckages of downed aeroplanes. He also met government troops who had deserted military units of Khost and surrendered to Mujahideen.

Interestingly, the American journalist also saw, besides Arabs, some other groups fighting alongside the Mujahideen against the Kabul regime troops. These groups belonged to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Chinese Muslims.

The journalist said that the Mujahideen worried that if and when they capture Khost, the Afghan government would attack with the Soviet supplied Scud missiles. Khost city still has several thousand civilian

residents. Meanwhile, the Kabul regime is paying a heavy price in its efforts to retain possession of the isolated Khost city and cantonment.

Radio Tehran said that Mujahideen had shot down three transport planes on or near Khost airport during July. The destruction of the first was reported on July 16 and that of the latter on July 19. The ones destroyed on July 19 were supposedly carrying paratroopers – more than 100 of them – who were all killed.

Kabul and Moscow Radio stations reported Mujahideen attacks on government troops and establishments in and around Khost and the provincial capital Gardez. Some of the places under the attack thus mentioned were Yaqubi, Ismail and Jaji Maidan. They said that Afghan armed forces had attacked "rebel hide-outs" and killed more than one hundred "terrorists".

The Mujahideen controlled VIRA radio station said on July 13 that more than 1,500 Mujahideen had participated in an attack on a Kabul regime security post of "strategic importance" five kilometres from Jalalabad city. They took the post after only two hours of fighting.

Earlier Soviet-made aeroplanes of the Kabul regime had heavily bombed Mujahideen positions in Samarkhel, Chaparhar and Surkhrund areas, that is, around Jalalabad.

BBC's resident correspondent in Kabul Deepak Tripathi in a dispatch on 15 July said: "In recent months the strategy of government forces in Eastern Afghanistan has been to increase military pressure on Mujahideen guerrillas.

This strategy has two main aims, to push the Mujahideen guerrillas back towards Pakistan and to reopen important supply routes linking Pakistan to the border city of Jalalabad. The supply routes are presently controlled by Mujahideen groups. Jalalabad still comes under fire from nearby guerrilla positions.

"According to reports a large guerrilla convoy carrying weapons was moving from the border province of Kunar, which is under guerrilla control, towards Jalalabad. Government forces ambushed it in lower Kunar and there was fierce fighting three days ago. There were reports of heavy casualties on both sides".

There were not any war report from the liberated Paktika and Nooristan provinces.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan
Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

There were not any reports of fresh fighting from four out of the ten provinces of Northern Afghanistan in July. These provinces were; Badakhshan, Balkh, Saripul and Badghis. The intensity of fighting in the rest of the six provinces ranged from low to medium. On their part, the Mujahideen seemed handicapped by internecine problems and shortages of food and weapons.

In these circumstances, Kabul regime security forces went on a limited offensive in Takhar and Samangan provinces, as well as, Kunduz. In Kunduz province, Najib government militia tried to establish security posts in the liberated Aliabad sub-division. This move was, however, frustrated. In the Samangan province, the Mujahideen shot down a MIG fighter near the provincial capital, Aibak city. The pilot who bailed out was captured.

The Mujahideen were comparatively more active in the Baghlan province. Here the Mujahideen continued their campaign – started last month – against Kabul regime troops and establishments in the Pul-e-Khumri and Dan Qadri areas, killing and capturing a number of soldiers/militiamen.

One report said that 4 tanks were destroyed in this salient along the Salang highway which connects Soviet Central Asian river ports on the Oxus with the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul.

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In the Jowzjan and Faryab provinces too the Mujahideen attacked several security posts and destroyed or damaged them.

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

In operations against Kabul regime troops and establishments in Herat province, the Mujahideen killed at least sixty troops in Ghorian, Pashtoon Zarghoon and Hazrat Khan areas, Radio Tehran reported on 18 July. A number of Kabul regime soldiers/militiamen also defected to Mujahideen.

In the adjoining Farah province on 2 July, the Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy on the highway between Herat city and Shindand Airforce base. At least one tank was destroyed during the attack.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor, Uruzgan

As also during the previous month, there were no war reports from the liberated Bamiyan province in July.

In the Ghor province, the Mujahideen attacked and burnt a Kabul regime military supply depot in Shahrak district on July 18. That was the only incident reported from Ghor.

Soviet made aeroplanes of the Kabul regime heavily bombarded Mujahideen positions around the besieged provincial capital of Uruzgan, Tarin Kot, on July 14. At least three Mujahideen were killed and sixteen others wounded.

Kabul and Shomali

Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak

The Kabul government Deputy Defence Minister, Gen. Mohammad Nabi Azimi claimed on July 8 to have achieved "complete victory" against

Mujahideen in Paghman valley. The government forces had been making strenuous efforts for the past about three and a half months to gain control over Paghman. It was believed that most of the rockets fired on Kabul city originated from Paghman.

General Azimi, who was commander of the army operations in Paghman, said that 3,000 soldiers, supported by 70 heavy artillery pieces and two Air Defence Units had been used in these operations. He claimed that several hundred guerrillas had been killed and the rest driven out from Paghman. He said that fifty government troops were killed and hundred other injured. Besides, 19 vehicles and two MIG-21 aircraft of the government were destroyed.

However, even as General Azimi was claiming "complete victory" at a press briefing, rockets started falling on Kabul from that direction. So, to be sure the Mujahideen were very much there in Paghman, and quite up and doing.

What probably had happened in Paghman was that the government troops had made an advance of some kilometres into the area twenty kilometres from Kabul. But all the mountains in Paghman were still under the control of Mujahideen.

Mujahideen sources said on July 23 that hand-to-hand fighting was continuing around the Zargar Pass in the northern part of the Paghman valley since July 17. Both sides had gained and lost some positions alternately.

According to diplomatic sources the Kabul Air Force carried out heavy bombing on Mujahideen positions in the third week of July. At the same time Soviet-supplied long-range guns shelled Mujahideen positions, causing considerable loss of life in their ranks.

Meanwhile, there were reports of fresh clashes on the Salang highway linking Afghanistan with Soviet Union. The Salang is of key importance for the Najib administration as arms and food supplies reach

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Afghanistan from the Soviet Union through this highway. The Kabul government earlier claimed that the road was safe and convoys were moving on it. Fresh clashes on the highway would certainly cause worry to the Kabul authorities.

BBC reported from Kabul; "Reports reaching Kabul say that a number of convoys were attacked on the Salang Highway last week. The Highway was closed: but, authorities say, it was reopened. According to reports fighting is concentrating a few miles away from Panjsher Valley where government troops and guerrillas loyal to Ahmed Shah Masud are fighting each other. The Afghan government sources say that Ahmed Shah Masud's force had shot down a MIG-21 near Bagram. The guerillas have hit a number of planes in the north of Kabul during the recent weeks".

Indeed, Ahmed Shah Masud who effectively controls the Panjsher (Kapisa) valley, is known to have occasionally sent out guerrilla contingent to attack Kabul government troops in the Parwan, Baghlan and some other adjoining provinces.

Moscow Radio on 17 July claimed that the units of the Afghan security forces had repulsed an attack of the Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar group on security posts on Kabul-Sarobi road. This section of the road which joins Kabul with Jalalabad lies in the Laghman province. "The rebels were forced to retreat after tens of them were killed and injured".

In another broadcast Moscow Radio said on 23 July that rockets fired by "Afghan Extremists" had hit the House of Soviet Science and Culture in Kabul. As a result Soviet specialists sent to the Afghan capital for temporary assembly work has suffered.

As in previous months, the Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces continued to fight in the Logar and Wardak provinces. Mujahideen claimed they had undertaken large scale operations against Kabul regime security posts along the military road passing through Mohammad Agha and Pul-e-Alam to Gardez in Paktiya province. They also attacked a large camp at Azrah. It would appear the Mujahideen had a double purpose in accelerating operations in Logar during July. The first was to obstruct supply of arms and foods to Gardez, capital of Paktiya. The second was to relieve some pressure from Mujahideen positions in the nearby Paghman

valley of Kabul province where the two sides had been engaged in a long-drawn battle for supremacy.

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below were the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes in July 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Continued violation of Geneva Accords by Pakistan.

2. Afghan government's efforts through National Reconciliation Policy for a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem.

3. Foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, especially by United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

4. Anxiety of Afghan refugees to return to their homeland, despite obstruction by their leaders.

5. Created progress and development in Afghanistan.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes pertaining to Pakistan and Afghanistan in July 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Clashes between rival groups of Mujahideen.

2. USSR, USA and UN efforts for a peaceful solution of Afghanistan problem.

3. Solution of Afghan problem through direct intra-Afghan talks.

4. Return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

5. Further improvement in Soviet-India relations following V.P. Singh's visit to USSR.

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1990

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1990

While Kabul regime forces were hitting at Mujahideen positions in Paghman and Parwan, north of Kabul along the Salang Highway, the famous guerrilla leader Ismael Khan, August 12, moved more than 2,000 of his men from Herat to attack the capital city of the adjoining Badghis province, Qala-e-Nau. Badghis lies on the border of the Central Asian republic of Turkmenistan. Mujahideen claimed they captured a number of fortified positions of the Kabul regime in the suburbs of Qala-e-Nau.

In their operations north of Kabul, the Najibullah regime forces seemed to have made some further advances and attacked an important "base" of Mujahideen in the Koh-e-Safi mountains of Parwan province. This area had, while the Russians were still in the fray, seen some of the bloodiest hand-to-hand fighting. The latest Kabul regime offensive in Koh-e-Safi, according to Mujahideen sources, was repulsed on August 7. The Kabul regime force consisted of infantry, artillery and armour and was supported by aircraft.

Earlier on August 3, Mujahideen conducted a heavy rocket attack on the Bagram Air Force base. Here they were reported to have hit a number of aircraft.

In all, during August 1990, the Mujahideen reported 160 incidents in 19 out of 31 provinces of Afghanistan. These comprised 20 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 103 strikes against immobile targets.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Baghlan and Parwan provinces – along the Salang Highway – followed by Paktiya, Ghazni and Badghis.

Human losses reported by Mujahideen for August were:

Kabul troops casualties	:	761 killed and 302 wounded.
Mujahideen casualties	:	124 killed and 142 wounded.
Civilian casualties	:	88 killed and 23 wounded.

Kabul media claimed they had killed 275 Mujahideen and wounded 157 of them against only 4 of their own men killed and 10 wounded.

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul, Ghazni

Southern Afghanistan provinces – with the exception of Ghazni – there were, by and large, calm during August. But, this did not necessarily signify pacification, for instance, of one of the most turbulent areas of the Resistance, namely, Qandahar. The objective situation there apparently was that government garrisons stayed out defensively in their beleaguered cantonments. Meanwhile, Mujahideen roamed the countryside attacking exposed government security posts at their own convenience, but never attempting something really big or spectacular as in the past. For one thing, the ten tedious years of war must have sapped the enthusiasm of fighters, as also of the general public, on both sides. Under the circumstances, in the wake of the new "comparative peace" many people engaged themselves in preparing abandoned grain fields and orchards for the next crops. Many underground irrigation channels – Karez – were destroyed or damaged and had to be made functional. So, also there had to be reconstructed houses and shelters for both men and animals. Qandahar, reports said, had this year cultivated a much larger area for production of fruits, vegetables and grains than that of the last year.

An unspecified number of refugees also returned to the Southern provinces from Pakistan and Iran. In nut-shell, the situation in Southern Afghanistan provinces in August was:

Nimroz – Nil War Report,

Helmand – Nil War Report,

Zabul – Nil War Report.

Qandahar – Mujahideen reported only two incidents, on August 6 and 24. The first was in Panjwai suburb of Qandahar city, and the second within the precincts of the walled city. Mujahideen claimed they killed at least 15 Kabul soldiers. Another twenty militiamen defected and joined the Mujahideen.

Radio Moscow confirmed clashes between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces in Panjwai and Daman districts of Qandahar. It said: "In these operations tens of armed opposition men were killed, including two Saudi Wahabis".

There was Nil War Report from Zabul, but Kabul Times said on August 15: "The organs of the Ministry of State Security recently purchased one US-made Surface-to-Air Stinger rocket from an opposition group attached to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the areas related to Zabul province. The price of the rocket was paid to the concerned side as per the decree".

Ghazni – Mujahideen were active in Ghazni province. They reported 10 incidents. These clashes occurred on August 1,4,5,6,8,21 and 23. Apparently, the fiercest of these clashes took place on August 8 when Mujahideen made a massive assault on the security posts guarding Ghazni city, the cantonment and the airport. The government security posts thus invested called in air force which ran numerous sorties against Mujahideen positions. A number of Mujahideen were killed and injured. Some non-combatant villagers – among them women and children – were also killed. On their side government forces lost two helicopters, a tank and an armed troops carrier. Four security posts were eliminated.

An earlier Mujahideen report had indicated an attempt on the part of Kabul regime troops in Ghazni cantonment to set up new security posts, bunkers and observation towers along the so-called Security Belt around the city on August 4. Possibly, fighting continued in this area for four days and the Kabul forces were finally beaten back on August 8.

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Nooristan

As in previous many months there was not any fighting in August in the liberated provinces of Paktiya, Kunar and Nooristan.

In Paktiya province, according to a Kabul government spokesman quoted by BBC on August 14, a group of five thousand persons

Kabul media claimed they had killed 275 Mujahideen and wounded 157 of them against only 4 of their own men killed and 10 wounded.

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In Paktiya province, according to a Kabul government spokesman quoted by BBC on August 14, a group of five thousand persons

consisting of Afghan Mujahideen and "Pakistani militia" was on the offensive against the garrison town of Khost. The Kabul government spokesman accused Pakistan government of helping "Muslim fundamentalists" like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Younas Khalis, and Sayyaf. He said that the Afghan Mujahideen and Pakistani militia were using tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons against the government forces.

Another Mujahideen report emanating from Khost front on August 20 said that Kabul forces were attacking Mujahideen centres in the liberated area with aerial bombardment and scud missiles. So the tempo of fighting around Khost was fairly high.

Mujahideen claimed they had made several attacks on Kabul regime troops and installations in Khost, Gardez and Sayed Karam areas and inflicted heavy losses on their adversaries. Four Soviet-made fighters/bombers/helicopters were also shot down.

Meanwhile, Kabul radio named three Pakistani on August 11 and 14 who had reportedly been killed alongside Mujahideen during fighting with Kabul regime forces in Paktiya. They were stated to be members of the Islamic students organisation, Islami Jamiat Talaba. They were identified as Zuberi of Karachi and Hafiz Mushtaq Ahmed of Lahore. Another Pakistani, Javidan Khan, whose native place was not mentioned by Kabul radio, had a brother named Aman Khan killed in the previous week, in the same area. Apparently, the latter two had hailed from Peshawar.

In the Ningarhar province, the Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops and installations around Jalalabad on August 2, 12 and 14. Perhaps, the August 14 attack in Deh Yasin was the most important of these. Here they captured a Kabul regime strong-point called Yassin Baba. The elimination of the choke-point at Yassin Baba should reopen to Mujahideen easier and safer communications between Ningarhar and Kunar, as well as, Laghman. Heavy casualties were believed to have been suffered by both sides during this operation.

Kabul Radio confirmed fighting between their forces in Yassin Baba, Kobak and Koti areas. Yassin Baba lies at a distance of about 18 km from

Jalalabad on a junction of land routes leading to Kunar, Laghman and beyond into Kapisa and Baghlan provinces.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan
Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

On August 12, a force of some 2,000 Mujahideen hailing from Herat and Badghis provinces initiated a series of powerful attacks on Kabul regime forces and installations around Qala-e-Nau, the provincial headquarters of Badghis. The famous guerrilla leader of Herat Captain Ismael was reportedly directing these operations. Only last month, Badghis was calm, sort of pacified by successful stick-and-carrot policy of the Kabul regime in this area. Ismael Khan seemed to have been weakened in his native Herat province, mainly by chronic shortage of arms and ammunition and food. So, this sudden appearance of large Mujahideen hosts immediately outside the ramparts of Qala-e-Nau must have surprised the garrison.

Over the following two days Ismael Khan captured Kabul regime "bases" - fortified camping grounds – at Qala-e-Chisma-e-Dozdak, Yahya Khan and Koomari. On August 16, the Mujahideen claimed having seized 1,200 light and heavy weapons, a tank, two radio communication sets, seven medium mortars and three machine-guns from the retreating Kabul troops. A large number of Kabul soldiers and militiamen (running into hundreds) surrendered to Mujahideen. Ismael Khan was thus able to set his outposts only three kilometres from the centre of the provincial capital Qala-e-Nau.

The Baghlan province, through which passes the strategic Salang Highway, remained one of the most active areas of conflict. The main centres of fighting were near Pul-e-Khumri and Khenjan. The Mujahideen hit both static and mobile targets. Urban Guerillas hit the provincial capital, Baghlan city.

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Mujahideen also expelled the followers of Kabul regime collaborator Sayyed Kayan from three security posts in the so-called "Kayan Valley".

In the Takhar province, Kabul regime troops attacked Mujahideen positions in the liberated township of Chah Aab, about 10 km from the Ammu (Oxus) River which forms international boundary between Afghanistan and Soviet Central Asia. According to Mujahideen reports the invaders were thrown back after suffering losses in men and materials. Of course, the Mujahideen too had some of their men killed and wounded.

In Kunduz province, the Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made helicopter in the Qala-Zal district on August 23. The gunship was on a bombing mission. On August 29, they claimed having captured two helicopters of the Kabul army in Aaq Tappa sub-division. The sources did not say how they had done it. Nevertheless, they said that the "pilots and other militarymen in the copters" were captured.

Badakhshan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan and Faryab too had their own share of fighting during August. Nothing happened in Saripul. A Mujahideen report from Jowzjan, the authenticity of which could not be confirmed, said that Brigadier General Mohammad Sharif, supposed to be the commander of Kabul forces in that province, had been killed by the Mujahideen on August 4. The circumstances of the General's demise were not spelled out.

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

Towards the middle of August, the famous guerrilla leader Ismael Khan, it would seem, shifted a sizeable portion of his men to Herat's adjoining Badghis province to launch a vigorous surprise attack on its headquarters, Qala-e-Nau. At the same time his men were able to hit a large number of Kabul regime targets.both static and mobile in the Herat province itself. It could not be ascertained if Ismael Khan was in Herat or Badghis. Earlier reports emanating from his camp in Herat had suggested

that he was gravely handicapped by scarcity of arms, ammunition and food. Perhaps that was a mere "ruse".

Mujahideen sources in Herat said that they had hit Kabul regime security posts on August 1 (Pushtoon Zarghoon), August 5 (Gullgoo), August 17 (Islam Qila) and August 26 (Adraskan).

On August 19, they ambushed a military convoy in the vicinity of Qamarabad. Here two armoured personnel carriers were destroyed and several soldiers and militiamen killed. On their part the Mujahideen had 9 of their men killed and 15 injured.

Another report carried by All India Radio (AIR) on August 12 said that at least 70 men were killed when a Soviet-made military plane crashed soon after take off from the Shindand airfield, south of Herat city, on August 10. The radio station quoted eyewitnesses said that those killed possibly numbered more than 100. The bodies of 70 troops were flown to Kabul on August 11.

It could not be confirmed whether the military transport aircraft had been shot down by Mujahideen – who hold attacking positions all around the Shindand airbase – or if it was a case of sabotage, or technical malfunctioning.

There was nil War report from Farah province.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor, Uruzgan

There was Nil War Report from Bamiyan and Uruzgan provinces.

In the Ghor province, however, on August 14, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime security posts in Sharak district. At least two of these posts were destroyed.

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Urban guerrillas also hit Kabul regime troops in the provincial headquarters of Ghor, Chagcharan, on the same day. At least one soldier was killed and two injured.

Kabul and Shomali

Kabul, Parwan Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak

Kabul government reiterated claims in the third week of August of having driven out resistance forces from their positions around the capital, including Paghman district. And yet BBC Kabul correspondent reported on August 22 that the Mujahideen were able to fire rockets on Kabul city.

The major aim behind Kabul governments operations beginning April was to expand the security belt around Kabul, which had been under heavy shelling of the Mujahideen. The Deputy Defence Minister and the Commander of Kabul Garrison, General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, said that earlier the resistance forces were only a few kilometres away from Kabul. According to him, Kabul has now been divided into three security zones, with one about forty to fifty kilometres off the centre of the city, while the remaining two zones were closer around the city. However, the resistance forces were able to fire rockets on the city. The Mujahideen used medium range missiles. The Mujahideen entered the security belt and after firing missiles returned to their bases.

According to Kabul Radio Mujahideen fired rockets on the capital on August 1,3,7,8,13,14,16,19,23,24,25 and 26. Mostly the rockets were of US manufacture. Some of these rockets, it said, had been seized by the security forces during mopping up operations. Others were "purchased" from the "rebels".

Kabul Radio, as well as Kabul Times, reported a large number of casualties among the residents of Kabul city as a result of Mujahideen rocket attacks on the city. Of course, Kabul regime security forces "retaliated" by hitting back on Mujahideen positions in Paghman hills and beyond in Parwan province. The government used Soviet-supplied aircraft and artillery during these attacks.

Mujahideen sources said that they had repeatedly attacked Kabul regime troops and installations all around Kabul, more particularly in the Paghman district. In Paghman some positions lost to the government during its latest offensive were retaken.

On August 29, Mujahideen carried out a rocket attack on the Kabul Airport at a time when President Najibullah happened to be in one of the incoming aeroplanes. The aircraft was hastily ferried across to a sheltered hanger where Najib waited for 6 hours before being whisked away to his palace.

Earlier, the Mujahideen hit a military convoy on the Bagram-Kabul road, destroying a tank.

The Mujahideen on August 3 attacked the large Bagram airbase with Sacker-30 surface-to-surface rockets. Four SU-27 aircraft were believed hit. A large Kabul regime force consisting of infantry, artillery and armour attacked a Mujahideen base area in the Koh-i-Safi on August 7. They were supported by Soviet-made aircraft. According to Mujahideen sources, the attack was repulsed. At least two tanks were destroyed and a large number of soldiers killed. Soviet-made aircraft of Kabul regime bombarded Mujahideen positions and civilian population in the area. This Kabul regime attack seemed to be part of their about three and a half months old campaign to clear Mujahideen strong-points north of Kabul city along the land route connecting the capital with the Soviet Union.

Clashes between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces were also reported from the Sofian and Charikar regions of Parwan province on August 18 and 22.

Soviet-supplied aircraft of Kabul regime attacked Mujahideen bases in the Tagab district of Kapisa. At least 14 "shops" were destroyed during the attack. A number of local people were killed.

There was small-to-medium scale fighting in Laghman and Logar provinces during August. However, Mujahideen claimed they had

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captured an important place called "Qarghi", somewhere in Laghman province, on August 6.

Kabul regime airforce was active in Laghman, Logar and Wardak provinces. A number of civilians were thus killed in the Bahus district of Logar and Sanglakh, Bazaar Jalriaz and Maidan Shahr of Wardak.

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below were the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes in August 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Continued violation of Geneva Accords by Pakistan

2. Increase in return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

3. Afghan government's efforts through National Reconciliation Policy for a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem.

4. Condemnation of hurdles in the way of returning Afghan refugees.

5. Clashes between rival groups of Mujahideen.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes pertaining to Pakistan and Afghanistan in August 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Continued return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

2. Stepping up of armed opposition activities in Afghanistan following change of government in Pakistan.

3. Denunciation by India and Afghanistan of Pakistan's interference in their internal affairs.

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Renewed large-scale attacks on Kalat-e-Ghilzai seemed part of a larger offensive on behalf of Mujahideen to eliminate Kabul regime pockets of resistance in the mainly Pushtoon areas of Eastern Afghanistan, that is, Zabul, Ghazni and Uruzgan. In this sector Paktika, Kunar and Nooristan have already been fully liberated and fighting continues in Paktiya, Ningarhar and Qandahar provinces.

In the North-Western Badghis province on the borders of the Soviet Central Asia republic of Turkmenistan – where the Herati guerrilla leader Captain Ismael Khan has lately been active – fighting concentrated around the provincial capital, Qala-e-Nau and Murghab. In Qala-e-Nau, Mujahideen destroy regime security posts which cost the Mujahideen many casualties.

Meanwhile, fighting continued between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces for the control of the Salang Highway at several key points in the Kabul, Parwan and Baghlan provinces. A usually reliable Western source said: "As of September 20, heavy fighting continued between an alliance of Mujahideen and Ismaeli tribal militia who protect the Salang near Dowshi in Baghlan province".

Mujahideen sources claimed that 10 Russian-made fighters/bombers and 4 helicopters were destroyed/shot down during September 1990.

Human Losses reported by Mujahideen for the month were:

Kabul troops casualties:	968 killed,	447	wounded
Mujahideen casualties:	74 killed,	88	wounded
Civilian casualties:	41 killed,	7	wounded

Mujahideen said 421 Afghan troops had defected to them during September 1990.

Human losses reported by Kabul media for September were:

Mujahideen casualties	175 killed	35	wounded
Kabul troops casualties	1 killed		
Civilian casualties	49 killed	70	wounded

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul, Ghazni

There was "Nil War Report" from Nimroz and Helmand provinces during September 1990. The tempo of fighting in Qandahar too was low, even though guerrillas attacked Kabul regime security posts between Qandahar and Grishik (September 2) and in Maiwand district (September 16). During an assault on the Qandahar Airport an aircraft was destroyed.

In other southern Afghanistan provinces of Zabul and Ghazni, however, fighting picked up sharply. It seemed the Mujahideen were tightening their stranglehold on the besieged Zabul capital, Kalat-e-Ghilzai. By capturing a number of regime outputs at Shamzai, Bagagak and Zanbad they made some significant advances towards the centre of the city.

The Mujahideen conducted attacks on Kalat-e-Ghilzai on September 6, 21 and 23. This evoked quick response from the Kabul government Air Force which pounded Mujahideen positions around the Citadel, also bombed (and restricted) Mujahideen advance.

In the adjoining Ghazni province the Mujahideen made several concerted attacks on the provincial headquarters, Ghazni city and

Cantonment. A helicopter was destroyed at the Ghazni Airport on September 1. On September 18, the Bala Hissar fort was attacked with rockets.

Radio Kabul conceded on September 6, that Mujahideen had shelled Ghazni city resulting in the destruction of several buildings. The Radio, however, said: "In retaliation, the enemy's positions were hit by the artillery of the Afghan army, causing heavy losses in men and material to the extremists".

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar, Nooristan

The liberated provinces of Paktika, Kunar and Nooristan did not yield any reports on fighting during September.

In the Paktiya province, however, the Mujahideen were on the offensive attacking Kabul regime security posts around Khost and the provincial headquarters, Gardez. Such attacks took place on September 1,2,3,7,13 and 24. Kabul Radio admitted that both of these strategic townships and cantonments were under attack. It said: The Saudi-backed enemies of the peace of the Afghan people have repeatedly shelled security posts and residential localities in Khost and Gardez areas. In retaliation, the Afghan Air Force and artillery have shelled positions and hide-outs of the enemies, destroying a huge quantity of their arms and ammunition".

It would seem Kabul regime garrisons in Khost and Gardez tries to ward off Mujahideen assaults by large-scale aerial and artillery bombardment on advancing Mujahideen. Consequently, their aircraft losses for September in Paktiya province were larger than during several preceding months. The toll in Paktiya came up to six out of a total of ten aircraft lost in September in the whole of Afghanistan. Two of the six aircraft were destroyed on the tarmac at the Khost Airport.

On September 12, Mujahideen conducted a powerful rocket attack on Jalalabad city in Ningarhar province from the side of Surkhrud, that is,

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south-west along the highway leading the Kabul. At least one security post was eliminated and two tanks and a lorry were destroyed. Seven Mujahideen, including a commander, were killed in the exchange of fire.

In the Nauabad areas of Pul-Kama district, regime troops ambushed a Mujahideen caravan carrying arms and ammunition to forward positions. Radio Kabul claimed that one mortar, 20 missiles and 8 shells of recoilless guns were seized.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

Hundreds of people were believed to have been killed during fighting between Kabul regime troops and Mujahideen for the control of Qala-e-Nau, capital city of Badghis near the Soviet Central Asia border. According to BBC's correspondent in Kabul, Deepak Tripathi, on September 19, this was the most fierce fighting in Northern Afghanistan for several months. It started on September 2 when guerrillas launched a frontal attack on the Qala-e-Nau. Since then government troops in the city have been under siege.

They are retaliating with heavy weapons, including aircraft and officials in Kabul say their forces have destroyed a number of Mujahideen positions.

There have also been reports of food supplies running short in the provincial capital. According to a government spokesman in Kabul, fresh food supplies have been received. However, there is no independent confirmation of government claims.

Other reports reaching Kabul speak of a major convoy being ambushed in Badghis province. The government says it was taking supplies to the Mujahideen, but according to other sources it was not clear who was to be the recipient of these supplies.

Meanwhile, Kabul denied the Mujahideen claims that Soviet pilots flying MIG-21 aircraft for bombardment of Mujahideen positions in Badghis and other parts of Afghanistan.

Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar, Samangan, Jowzjan, Balkh and Faryab also reported clashes between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces. It seemed the Mujahideen were on the offensive and Kabul regime forces on the defensive. The government was using the Russian-supplied aircraft more extensively.

Mujahideen sources said destruction and desertions have weakened the Afghan Airforce so much that many of their aircraft are being flown by Russian rather than Afghan pilots. They also allege that some of these aircraft actually take off from across the Amu Darya (Oxus), in violation of the provisions of Geneva Agreement to which USSR professes to adhere. Oxus river forms international border between Afghanistan and Soviet Central Asia for several hundred kilometres.

Another feature of conflict between Kabul regime forces and Mujahideen in Northern Afghanistan in September was a rather larger number of defections of government troops. According to Mujahideen reports more than 370 government troops surrendered to Mujahideen in September. One hundred and twenty surrendered in Badakhshan, 100 in Badghis and 80 in Faryab. That reflects on the state of morale amongst Kabul regime forces. Perhaps, a large proportion of these were militiamen rather than regular army soldiers.

There was nil war report from Saripul province.

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

Mujahideen conducted surprise attacks on Kabul regime troops and establishments in and near Herat city on September 9. At least one tank was knocked out and several soldiers killed. Mujahideen also planted land mines on the Islamqala-Thana Jadeed road near the Iranian border.

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On the following day, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on the Herat-Torghandi highway, hitting a tank. On September 19, Mujahideen eliminated two security posts along the Islamqala-Herat road.

The huge Shindand Airbase south of Herat was attacked by a mobile group of Mujahideen on September 19. Mujahideen lobbed rockets into military built-up area and the runways. On way back to their bases, the Mujahideen overran three security posts which yielded them a quantity of arms and ammunition.

From Farah only one Mujahideen operation was reported. It occurred on September 8 when Mujahideen attacked a military convoy near Dehak village, evidently on the road connecting Herat with Grishik and Qandahar. At least two tanks were destroyed and a number of government soldiers killed, including an officer of the rank of brigadier.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor, Uruzgan

There was Nil War Report from Bamiyan in September.

However, on September 5, Mujahideen attacked a military convoy in Tolak district of Ghor province and destroyed a tank along with four other vehicles. A security post was overrun at Pul-e-Khurasan on September 9. At least two of the soldiers manning this post were killed and 30 surrendered to Mujahideen. Mujahideen also attacked regime security posts in Shahrak district on September 9.

In Uruzgan, the besieged provincial capital, Tarin Kot, came under renewed Mujahideen attacks on September 10. Mujahideen claimed to have killed a number of regime troops, but in the exchanges lost at least four of their own men as well.

Kabul and Shomali

Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak

Throughout the month of September 1990, Najib forces persisted in their efforts to clear Kabul city's road communications with the North, as

well as, South. The immediate bottle-necks in the North were in the regions of Paghman (Kabul province) and Charikar (Parwan province). The famous Salang road which connects Kabul with the Soviet Central Asian republics lies along this route. The road to the South connecting Kabul with Ghazni and Qandahar, via Wardak province, was obstructed by Mujahideen in Safidhak hills, some four miles north of Maidan Shahr, capital of Wardak.

The Kabul regime, it would seem, brought in large contingents of tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as aircraft to hit Mujahideen positions in Paghman, Charikar and Maidan Shahr. Possibly, they partially succeeded in establishing some pickets along the roads in these areas. But, as in the past, the Afghan guerrillas showed extraordinary resilience and managed to come back and regain lost ground. In these battles the Kabul regime lost about dozen tanks and an aircraft. The Russia-made jet fighter was shot down in Koteasro region, some 15 km south of Maidan Shahr.

On their part, the Mujahideen repeatedly attacked Najib regime troops and establishments in Kabul city with rockets. That bellied government claims that the Mujahideen had been pushed out from Paghman. BBC's correspondent in Kabul, Deepak Tripathi, had this to say on the Kabul scene on September 27:

"The rocket attacks started early in the morning and continued till 11 a.m. The reports says that the rockets fired by the Mujahideen landed at hangers of the passenger and transport planes at Kabul airport. Fights from Tashkent enroute Kabul to New Delhi were suspended. Later a plane arrived in Kabul in the evening. Anyhow, two aircraft i.e. one of Afghan Airlines Aryana and another plane of the Indian airlines bound for New Delhi, took off from Kabul airport between 4 to 5 p.m.

The Mujahideen have fired these rockets in retaliation to landing of a large number of the Afghan troops in Kabul yesterday. Troops supported by a number of tanks, military vehicles and the other heavy weapons have been deployed in government buildings. As reported yesterday, there

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There was sporadic fighting in the Logar province through which another major highway – the Kabul-Pule-Alam-Gardez-Khost road – passes. Mujahideen have put up road-blocks at several places of this route between Mohammad Aga and Pule Alam and Pule Alam and Gardez. The stretch between Gardez and Khost has not been open to Kabul regime transport for a very long time.

There, evidently, was not any fighting in the Laghman and Kapisa provinces. The "War Lord" of Kapisa, Ahmed Shah Masud was, according to newspaper reports, on a sojourn of Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas to meet other Mujahideen leaders.

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below were the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes in September 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Continued violation of Geneva Accords by Pakistan.

2. Continued return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

3. Afghan government's efforts through National Reconciliation Policy for a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem.

4. Clashes between rival groups of Mujahideen.

5. Shelling of extremists on residential areas.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes pertaining to Pakistan and Afghanistan in September 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Clashes between rival groups of Mujahideen.

2. Impediments created by Mujahideen in the way of returning Afghan refugees to their homeland.

3. President Najib's proposal to form a Joint Commission with opposition's participation to run Afghanistan's affairs.

4. Support of the National Reconciliation Policy of Afghanistan by the Indian government manifested during President Najib's recent visit to New Delhi.

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APPENDIX – 1

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

Mujahideen sources reported 93 incidents in 19 out of 31 Afghan provinces during July 1990. These comprised of 26 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 49 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul regime forces conducted at least 7 air and 11 ground strikes against Mujahideen.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Ningarhar and Paktiya followed by Qandahar and Herat.

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict witnessed in and around 14 provincial capitals, prominent among them being Kabul, Jalalabad, Gardez and Qandahar.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Soviet-Kabul media reports security forces conducted 55 operations in 11 provinces.

Figures cited by Kabul media indicated that 873 "Counter Revolutionaries" were killed and 424 wounded. It was reported that Counter Revolutionaries carried out 29 "acts of subversion" in 3 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

Mujahideen reported 114 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 8 occasions. Defections took place in 5 Afghan provinces.

AERIAL LOSSES

Agency Afghan Press reports said seven Russian-made aircraft and two helicopters were destroyed/shot down during the month of July 1990. This figure included four aircraft destroyed on the airfields of Khost and Gardez.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human Losses reported by Mujahideen for July 1990 were:

Kabul troops casualties	617	Killed	211	Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	77	Killed	12	Wounded
Civilian casualties	27	Killed	8	Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media were:

Mujahideen casualties	873	Killed	424	Wounded
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APPENDIX – 2

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JULY 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Inside City	Engagements Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	–	Zaranj	–	–
Helmand	1	Lashkargah	2	1
Qandahar	6	Qandahar	–	–
Zabul	–	Kalat Ghilzai	–	–
Ghazni	2	Ghazni	2	–
Paktika	–	Sharna	–	–
Paktiya	9	Gardez	2	–
Ningarhar	9	Jalalabad	3	3
Kunar	–	Chagha Sarai	–	–
Nooristan	–	Nooristan	–	–
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	–	Faizabad	–	–
Takhar	–	Taloqan	–	–
Kunduz	4	Kunduz	–	–
Baghlan	3	Baghlan	2	1
Samangan	1	Samangan	1	–
Balkh	1	Mazar Sharif	–	1
Jozjan	3	Shebergan	–	–
Sari-pul	2	Sari-pul	–	–
Faryab	1	Maimana	–	–
Badghis	1	Qala Nau	–	–
Bordering Iran				
Herat	6	Herat	–	1
Farah	2	Farah	–	1
(Nimruz)	–	(Zaranj)	–	–
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	–	Bamiyan	–	–
Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	–	–
Uruzgan	2	Tarin Kot	–	1
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	31	Kabul	2	7
Parwan	4	Charikar	–	1
Kapisa	–	Mahmud-i-Raqi	–	–
Laghman	–	Mehtarlam	–	–
Logar	4	Pule Alam	–	–
Wardak	2	Koteasro	1	–
Total	93		15	16

APPENDIX – 3

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

Mujahideen sources reported 160 incidents in 19 out of 31 Afghan provinces during August 1990. These comprised 20 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 103 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul regime forces conducted at least 14 air and 23 ground strikes against Mujahideen.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Baghlan and Parwan followed by Paktiya, Ghazni and Badghis.

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 10 provincial capitals, prominent among them being Kabul, Ghazi, Badghis and Parwan.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Soviet-Kabul media reports security forces conducted 20 operations in 5 provinces.

Figures by Kabul media indicated that 275 "Counter Revolutionaries" killed and 157 wounded. It was reported that Counter Revolutionaries carried out 33 "acts of subversion" in 5 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

Mujahideen reported that 723 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 6 occasions. Defections took place in 5 Afghan provinces.

AERIAL LOSSES

Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan and Agency Afghan Press reports said 6 Russian-made aircraft and 5 helicopters were

APPENDIX – 2

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JULY 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Inside City	Engagements Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	–	Zaranj	–	–
Helmand	1	Lashkargah	2	1
Qandahar	6	Qandahar	–	–
Zabul	–	Kalat Ghilzai	–	–
Ghazni	2	Ghazni	2	–
Paktika	–	Sharna	–	–
Paktiya	9	Gardez	2	–
Ningarhar	9	Jalalabad	3	3
Kunar	–	Chagha Sarai	–	–
Nooristan	–	Nooristan	–	–
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	–	Faizabad	–	–
Takhar	–	Taloqan	–	–
Kunduz	4	Kunduz	–	–
Baghlan	3	Baghlan	2	1
Samangan	1	Samangan	1	–
Balkh	1	Mazar Sharif	–	1
Jozjan	3	Shebergan	–	–
Sari-pul	2	Sari-pul	–	–
Faryab	1	Maimana	–	–
Badghis	1	Qala Nau	–	–
Bordering Iran				
Herat	6	Herat	–	1
Farah	2	Farah	–	1
(Nimruz)	–	(Zaranj)	–	–
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	–	Bamiyan	–	–
Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	–	–
Uruzgan	2	Tarin Kot	–	1
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	31	Kabul	2	7
Parwan	4	Charikar	–	1
Kapisa	–	Mahmud-i-Raqi	–	–
Laghman	–	Mehtarlam	–	–
Logar	4	Pule Alam	–	–
Wardak	2	Koteasro	1	–
Total	93		15	16

APPENDIX – 3

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

Mujahideen sources reported 160 incidents in 19 out of 31 Afghan provinces during August 1990. These comprised 20 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 103 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul regime forces conducted at least 14 air and 23 ground strikes against Mujahideen.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Baghlan and Parwan followed by Paktiya, Ghazni and Badghis.

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 10 provincial capitals, prominent among them being Kabul, Ghazi, Badghis and Parwan.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Soviet-Kabul media reports security forces conducted 20 operations in 5 provinces.

Figures by Kabul media indicated that 275 "Counter Revolutionaries" killed and 157 wounded. It was reported that Counter Revolutionaries carried out 33 "acts of subversion" in 5 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

Mujahideen reported that 723 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 6 occasions. Defections took place in 5 Afghan provinces.

AERIAL LOSSES

Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan and Agency Afghan Press reports said 6 Russian-made aircraft and 5 helicopters were

destroyed/shot down during the month of August 1990. This figure included 4 aircraft hit during a rocket attack on the Bagram airbase.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human Losses reported by Mujahideen for August 1990 were:

Kabul troops casualties	761	Killed	302	Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	124	Killed	142	Wounded
Civilian casualties	88	Killed	23	Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media for August 1990 were:

Mujahideen casualties	275	Killed	157	Wounded
Kabul troops casualties	4	Killed	10	Wounded
Civilian casualties	87	Killed	194	Wounded

APPENDIX – 4

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN AUGUST 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements Inside City	Engagements Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	–	Zaranj	–	–
Helmand	–	Lashkargah	–	–
Qandahar	4	Qandahar	1	–
Zabul	–	Kalat Ghilzai	–	–
Ghazni	12	Ghazni	1	2
Paktika	–	Sharna	–	–
Paktiya	14	Gardez	1	–
Ningarhar	3	Jalalabad	–	–
Kunar	–	Chagha Sarai	–	–
Nooristan	–	Nooristan	–	–
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	–	Faizabad	–	–
Takhar	5	Taloqan	–	–
Kunduz	5	Kunduz	1	–
Baghlan	25	Baghlan	–	1
Samangan	6	Samangan	1	–
Balkh	–	Mazar Sharif	–	–
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	–	–
Sari-pul	–	Sari-pul	–	–
Faryab	5	Maimana	–	–
Badghis	9	Qala Nau	2	–
Bordering Iran				
Herat	8	Herat	–	–
Farah	–	Farah	–	–
(Nimruz)	–	(Zaranj)	–	–
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	–	Bamiyan	–	–
Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	–	–
Uruzgan	–	Tarin Kot	–	–
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	34	Kabul	3	–
Parwan	15	Charikar	1	1
Kapisa	2	Mahmud-i-Raqi	–	–
Laghman	2	Mehtarlam	–	–
Logar	3	Pule Alam	1	–
Wardak	4	Koteasro	–	–
Total	160		12	4

destroyed/shot down during the month of August 1990. This figure included 4 aircraft hit during a rocket attack on the Bagram airbase.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human Losses reported by Mujahideen for August 1990 were:

Kabul troops casualties	761	Killed	302	Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	124	Killed	142	Wounded
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Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements Inside City	Engagements Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	–	Zaranj	–	–
Helmand	–	Lashkargah	–	–
Qandahar	4	Qandahar	1	–
Zabul	–	Kalat Ghilzai	–	–
Ghazni	12	Ghazni	1	2
Paktika	–	Sharna	–	–
Paktiya	14	Gardez	1	–
Ningarhar	3	Jalalabad	–	–
Kunar	–	Chagha Sarai	–	–
Nooristan	–	Nooristan	–	–
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	–	Faizabad	–	–
Takhar	5	Taloqan	–	–
Kunduz	5	Kunduz	1	–
Baghlan	25	Baghlan	–	1
Samangan	6	Samangan	1	–
Balkh	–	Mazar Sharif	–	–
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	–	–
Sari-pul	–	Sari-pul	–	–
Faryab	5	Maimana	–	–
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Bordering Iran				
Herat	8	Herat	–	–
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(Nimruz)	–	(Zaranj)	–	–
Central Provinces				
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Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	–	–
Uruzgan	–	Tarin Kot	–	–
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	34	Kabul	3	–
Parwan	15	Charikar	1	1
Kapisa	2	Mahmud-i-Raqi	–	–
Laghman	2	Mehtarlam	–	–
Logar	3	Pule Alam	1	–
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Total	160		12	4

APPENDIX – 5

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

Mujahideen sources reported 334 incidents in 21 out of 31 Afghan provinces during September 1990. These comprised 14 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 275 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul regime forces conducted at least 26 air and 19 ground strikes against Mujahideen.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Kabul, Paktiya and Badghis followed by Kunduz, Ghazni and Wardak.

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 32 provincial capitals, prominent among them being Qala-e-Nau, Kabul, Gardez and Kalat-e-Ghilzai.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Soviet-Kabul media reports security forces conducted 18 operations in 7 provinces.

Figures cited by Kabul media indicated that 176 "Counter Revolutionaries" were killed and 35 wounded. It was reported that Counter Revolutionaries carried out 19 "acts of subversion" in 4 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

Mujahideen reported 421 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 10 occasions. Defections took place in 9 Afghan provinces.

AERIAL LOSSES

Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan and Agency Afghan Press reports said that 10 Russian-made aircraft and 4 helicopters were destroyed/shot down during the month of September 1990. This figure included 6 aircraft destroyed in Paktiya.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human Losses reported by Mujahideen for September 1990 were:

Kabul troops casualties	968	Killed	447	Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	74	Killed	88	Wounded
Civilian casualties	41	Killed	7	Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media for September 1990 were:

Mujahideen casualties	175	Killed	35	Wounded
Kabul troops casualties	1	Killed	69	Wounded
Civilian casualties	49	Killed	70	Wounded

APPENDIX – 5

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

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APPENDIX – 6

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements Inside City	Engagements Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	–	Zaranj	–	–
Helmand	–	Lashkargah	–	–
Qandahar	6	Qandahar	1	–
Zabul	14	Kalat Ghilzai	4	1
Ghazni	21	Ghazni	1	1
Paktika	–	Sharna	–	–
Paktiya	35	Gardez	5	2
Ningarhar	10	Jalalabad	1	–
Kunar	–	Chagha Sarai	–	–
Nooristan	–	Nooristan	–	–
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	–	Faizabad	–	–
Takhar	3	Taloqan	–	–
Kunduz	22	Kunduz	–	–
Baghlan	13	Baghlan	–	–
Samangan	6	Samangan	–	–
Balkh	13	Mazar Sharif	–	–
Jozjan	6	Shebergan	–	–
Sari-pul	3	Sari-pul	–	–
Faryab	–	Maimana	–	–
Badghis	25	Qala Nau	7	–
Bordering Iran				
Herat	13	Herat	2	–
Farah	4	Farah	–	–
(Nimruz)	–	(Zaranj)	–	–
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	–	Bamiyan	–	–
Ghor	7	Chaghcharan	–	–
Uruzgan	1	Tarin Kot	1	–
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	84	Kabul	5	10
Parwan	14	Charikar	1	–
Kapisa	–	Mahmud-i-Raqi	–	–
Laghman	–	Mehtarlam	–	–
Logar	14	Pule Alam	1	–
Wardak	20	Koteasro	3	3
Total	334		32	17

APPENDIX – 7

TOTAL MILITARY OPERATIONS (SEPTEMBER 1990) COMPARATIVE DATA WITH LAST SIX MONTHS

Month		Mujahideen Operations	Kabul Operations	Total Engagements
September	1990	289	45	334
August	1990	123	37	160
July	1990	75	18	93
June	1990	139	49	188
May	1990	218	125	343
April	1990	117	64	181
March	1990	192	79	271
TOTAL:		1153	417	1,570

APPENDIX – 8

KABUŁ AIRLOSSES IN LAST SEVEN MONTHS MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES (SEPTEMBER 1990)

Month		Helicopters	Aeroplanes	Total
September	1990	4	10	14
August	1990	5	6	11
July	1990	2	7	9
June	1990	4	12	16
May	1990	5	7	12
April	1990	4	7	11
March	1990	5	12	17
TOTAL:		29	61	90

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APPENDIX – 9

HUMAN LOSSES IN LAST SEVEN MONTHS
(Mujahideen Sources September, 1990)

		Kabuli-Troops Killed	Mujahi-deen Killed	Civilian Killed	Total
September	1990	968	74	41	1083
August	1990	761	124	88	973
July	1990	617	77	27	721
June	1990	472	134	167	773
May	1990	920	139	208	1267
April	1990	729	81	126	936
March	1990	598	144	491	1233
TOTAL:		5065	773	1148	6986

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

AIG to Send Mujahideen to Defend Saudi Arabia

The Peshawar based interim government of the Afghan Mujahideen has decided to sent two thousand armed Mujahideen to Saudi Arabia. A spokesman for the interim government said the decision reflects the Afghan Mujahideen's solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, three member team headed by the Security Minister of the Afghan interim government, Haji Din Mohammad has been set up in order to make arrangement for evacuation of the Afghans stranded in Kuwait. (BBC August 23, 1990).

Attempts to Achieve Unity Among Mujahideen

The resistance leaders for the past several weeks, are trying to attract those groups which are based in Iran and the groups operating from Peshawar but are outside the interim government. In this connection, Professor Rabbani said that they did not intend to wipe out the present interim government, rather they were going to coordinate their military activities. He said that the interim government has been recognised by a number of countries, adding that the time has come when the Mujahideen should forge unity for reaching their goal of final victory. When asked whether the Mujahideen of the Jamiat-e-Islami were joining the plan of certain other resistance groups to launch a big attack on Kabul, Burhanuddin Rabbani said that his forces have always been fighting in collaboration with other groups and they are also joining the new plan. He maintained that the only thing which they kept in mind was that a large number of Afghans were dwelling in Kabul, therefore, these attacks should be made with utmost care and that only military installations should be brought under attacks. (BBC September 27, 1990).

Rearranging the Interim Government

Pakistan based Afghan Mujahideen leaders are trying to form a new interim government of the Afghan Mujahideen.

APPENDIX – 9

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Rearranging the Interim Government

Pakistan based Afghan Mujahideen leaders are trying to form a new interim government of the Afghan Mujahideen.

The text of the proposal says, the delegation discussed various aspects of the present situation in Afghanistan in a cordial atmosphere. We should be thankful to Almighty Allah, for bestowing the strength on to the Afghan Mujahideen to fulfil one of the main objectives of the Jehad by driving out the Soviet troops from their country. As we consider the Soviet brutal aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Afghan people in contravention of all human values and norms, we firmly believe that by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the sacrifices of the Mujahideen, the other objectives of the Jehad will be fulfilled. Although the Jehad of the Afghan Mujahideen succeeded in bringing about vital political changes in the region and the world, but regrettably due to the lack of an effective political organisation, the Afghan Mujahideen have not achieved the fruit of their Jehad. An analysis of the political and military situation in Afghanistan is reflective of the fact that our country is passing through a very critical phase of its twelve-year Jehad. The Jehad organisations, in spite of having played a praise-worthy role in the Jehad, have so far been unable to bring about political unity in and outside the country, which could be acceptable to the majority of all the Mujahideen and the refugees. The proposals says that the Interim Government comprised only seven Parties in Rawalpindi in 1989 under specific conditions. But so far eighteen months have passed and it has not achieved its specific objectives. In spite of hectic efforts, negotiations between the Interim government and the Iran-based Afghan organisation have not yielded any positive result. Just recently serious differences emerged among the Peshawar-based organisations. God forbid, if the differences continued, the Afghan will lose its value and its importance. The proposal adds that after signing of the Geneva Accords, which was reflective of an understanding between the super powers and were not in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people, increased the distance between the objective of the Afghan Jehad and our brethren and friend on regional and international level. These factors put a negative impact on the process of Jehad and its other political aspects. Under such a situation, contrary to the predictions of the Jehad organisations, the Soviet puppet regime survived due to increasing Soviet military and economic assistance. On the basis of analysis of the

general situation in Afghanistan the Afghan Jehad has entered into a sensitive stage.

In the proposal it was stated that armed Jehad should be continued so as to pave the way for the transfer of power to the Afghan Mujahideen. However, with the armed Jehad, the responsibility of the losses and destruction which will squarely lie with the Soviet and their stooges and political steps in this connection should also be undertaken to achieve the objectives of Jehad. And these political steps should be based on the principles of the holy religion of Islam. The proposal says, "we fully endorse the ideas of holding free and fair elections to the Shoora and Loya Jirga, so as to ensure the active participation of the people in the political affairs of the country. The elections should be conducted in a peaceful and free atmosphere, provided it does not fall prey to vested interests. A short cut to the fulfilment of the wishes of the Afghan people is the creation of a political atmosphere that may pave the way for unity and coordination among all the refugees, the Mujahideen and other sections of the Afghan society except the communists and Soviet stooges. Similarly a joint strategy should be framed and coordinated efforts should be intensified so as to remove the Kabul puppet regime from power". The proposal further say, "we also believe that the present political organisation may prove useful in bringing about the political change. But in the present situation the difficulty is that the present political organisation is incomplete from the very beginning. And it does not represent all the element of the Afghan society. In our opinion, the component Parties of AIG should make efforts to reach an understanding with those elements who were not included in the Interim government and the Shoora meeting should be held in Pakistan". (VOA July 2, 1990).

Najib-Mujahideen Indirect Negotiations

The Afghan President, Mr. Najibullah says the Western countries' attitude towards Afghanistan has changed in recent months.

Addressing a news conference in Moscow, he said Western countries now admit that a military solution of Afghan issue is not possible.

In this connection he mentioned the reopening of French and Italian embassies in Kabul and cited the example of change in the tone of American press.

The Afghan President also said that negotiations are going on with moderate Afghan Mujahideen leaders to reach some political settlement. He said Iran-based Mujahideen are parting their ways from the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance. (VOA August 25, 1990).

AIG Rejects Proposals on Political Settlement

A spokesman of Afghan Interim Government has said that the AIG cabinet discussed the proposals presented by Afghans and said that the proposals carried no measure which could prove to be fruitful and effective for the settlement of the Afghan problem in the present circumstances. These proposals were made by twenty six prominent Afghans who were recently invited by the AIG President, Sibghatullah Mujaddedi. These twenty six Afghans had said in their proposals that the Afghan Interim government was not fully representative government and asked for cooperation from acceptable elements in the Afghan society so that an elected government can be formed in Afghanistan. The cabinet of AIG decided in Peshawar on Tuesday to continue talks with the Iran based Mujahideen alliance in connection with their efforts towards forging unity among the Mujahideen. (BBC July 11, 1990).

National Salvation Front's Peace Proposals

In the Afghan capital Kabul, a group of independent Afghan politicians has issued a strongly worded letter to the super powers urging them to take advantage of their improved relations to find a way to end the war in Afghanistan. The group calling itself 'The National Salvation Society' has sent an open letter to the Soviet Foreign Minister and the American Secretary of State containing proposals for a peace plan.

In their letter, The National Salvation Society asked why, when there are great changes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, does the Afghan

war continue, which they described as an Afghan massacre. Addressing the Soviet Union, the latter says mere condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan made by Soviet officials cannot compensate the great devastation here. It says American moral and military support was only justified when the Mujahideen were fighting against Soviet troops who left after a decade of war in 1988. The National Salvation Society calls upon the super powers to use their new trust and friendliness to make honest moves towards a political settlement. They have proposed plans to bring an end to arms supplies to the warring sides. About thirty independent Afghans, to be selected by the United Nations, they say, will have consultations with Afghans and other groups. A committee would organise a grand assembly consisting of representatives of all Afghan groups under UN supervision; the meeting which would arrange a military ceasefire. The plan is similar to the proposals suggested by the UN and Afghans in exile. (BBC July 13, 1990).

Mujahideen Reject Najib's Peace Proposals

Afghan Mujahideen have rejected the proposal for establishing a joint commission comprising Mujahideen and Afghan government troops. President Najibullah reportedly presented this proposal with the objective to make certain establishment of peace and to supervise proposed elections in the country. A spokesman of the resistance movement said in the Pakistani city of Peshawar that Mujahideen turn down every such proposal which includes President Najibullah's party with peace process. Earlier, President Najibullah has expressed his willingness to transfer some of his special powers to the proposed joint commission. (VOG July 23, 1990).

Zahir Shah's Peace Proposal

A spokesman of the former Afghan monarch, who is living in Rome has said that Zahir Shah always considers the Loya Jirga a true and legitimate forum to represent all sections of the Afghan society. He thinks that in the present circumstances, the traditional Loya Jirga of Afghanistan is the major practicable way for the achievement of all the objectives. The

In this connection he mentioned the reopening of French and Italian embassies in Kabul and cited the example of change in the tone of American press.

The Afghan President also said that negotiations are going on with moderate Afghan Mujahideen leaders to reach some political settlement. He said Iran-based Mujahideen are parting their ways from the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance. (VOA August 25, 1990).

AIG Rejects Proposals on Political Settlement

A spokesman of Afghan Interim Government has said that the AIG cabinet discussed the proposals presented by Afghans and said that the proposals carried no measure which could prove to be fruitful and effective for the settlement of the Afghan problem in the present circumstances. These proposals were made by twenty six prominent Afghans who were recently invited by the AIG President, Sibghatullah Mujaddedi. These twenty six Afghans had said in their proposals that the Afghan Interim government was not fully representative government and asked for cooperation from acceptable elements in the Afghan society so that an elected government can be formed in Afghanistan. The cabinet of AIG decided in Peshawar on Tuesday to continue talks with the Iran based Mujahideen alliance in connection with their efforts towards forging unity among the Mujahideen. (BBC July 11, 1990).

National Salvation Front's Peace Proposals

In the Afghan capital Kabul, a group of independent Afghan politicians has issued a strongly worded letter to the super powers urging them to take advantage of their improved relations to find a way to end the war in Afghanistan. The group calling itself 'The National Salvation Society' has sent an open letter to the Soviet Foreign Minister and the American Secretary of State containing proposals for a peace plan.

In their letter, The National Salvation Society asked why, when there are great changes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, does the Afghan

war continue, which they described as an Afghan massacre. Addressing the Soviet Union, the latter says mere condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan made by Soviet officials cannot compensate the great devastation here. It says American moral and military support was only justified when the Mujahideen were fighting against Soviet troops who left after a decade of war in 1988. The National Salvation Society calls upon the super powers to use their new trust and friendliness to make honest moves towards a political settlement. They have proposed plans to bring an end to arms supplies to the warring sides. About thirty independent Afghans, to be selected by the United Nations, they say, will have consultations with Afghans and other groups. A committee would organise a grand assembly consisting of representatives of all Afghan groups under UN supervision; the meeting which would arrange a military ceasefire. The plan is similar to the proposals suggested by the UN and Afghans in exile. (BBC July 13, 1990).

Mujahideen Reject Najib's Peace Proposals

Afghan Mujahideen have rejected the proposal for establishing a joint commission comprising Mujahideen and Afghan government troops. President Najibullah reportedly presented this proposal with the objective to make certain establishment of peace and to supervise proposed elections in the country. A spokesman of the resistance movement said in the Pakistani city of Peshawar that Mujahideen turn down every such proposal which includes President Najibullah's party with peace process. Earlier, President Najibullah has expressed his willingness to transfer some of his special powers to the proposed joint commission. (VOG July 23, 1990).

Zahir Shah's Peace Proposal

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Afghan can achieve their right to self-determination and basic rights through Loya Jirga provided it is held without all kinds of foreign interferences. The spokesman also said that the former Afghan monarch is of the view that the Pakistan-based interim government of the six Mujahideen groups, prominent Mujahideen Commanders, eminent Afghan personalities, intellectuals, religious leaders and local elders should work jointly to find ways and means for the accomplishment of the aspirations of the Afghans. (VOA July 13, 1990).

Iran-based Mujahideen Propose Election Plan

The Iran-based Wahdat-e-Islami Afghanistan has sent a delegation to Peshawar to discuss the election plan with the Afghan Interim Government. Head of the delegation, Mr. Abdul Mazari was interviewed by VOA. He said that, the delegation has brought an election plan from Iran for the AIG's consideration. Our precious plan was that a supreme council of Jehad should be formed inside Afghanistan. Each member of this council was required to enjoy the support of five thousand armed Mujahideen through the small organisation, which should form an alliance in this regard. But Mr. Sayyaf said that if an organisation has the strength of more than fifteen thousand armed men, it should not send more than three representatives to the Shoora. They rejected the proposal on the ground that every organisation should have the right to send its representatives to the Shoora on the basis of its strength. Most of the Mujahideen leaders rejected that plan saying that it is not practicable.

Our second plan was that a revolutionary council Shoora should be formed to establish an interim government, but this has been deferred pending to further discussion. During discussions, we were invited to take part in the present interim government, because, as they argue, this government has an election commission, which can consider the views of the Iran-based Mujahideen. But we said we have no intention to participate in this government until the previous consensus agreed to by our spokesman Mr. Khalili and the then spokesman of the Mujahideen alliance, Professor Mujaddedi is implemented. We would join only when we are given Ministries on the basis of previous consensus. We also want

that six of our members should be included in the Presiding Council. Now the Peshawar-based Mujahideen leaders have asked for time to discuss this issue. (VOA July 15, 1990).

Afghan-Central Asia Connection

Speaking at a conference about the Soviet foreign policy, in Washington, several Soviet journalists said that though there were many comments about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan but the correct reason of this attack was still not known, because citing the remarks of Western observers that the Soviet Union was afraid of Islamic fundamentalism in Afghanistan, these journalists said, the problem of pan-Islamism inside the Soviet Union has further deteriorated and not overcame. Speaking on behalf of the Soviet journalists, Alexander Rokhanov said that the Islamic elements has strengthened in the Soviet Union and the increase in the nationalist and regional feelings in that country show that the civil war in various Afghan cities has now stretched to the Soviet territory. The Mujahideen are infiltrating into the Soviet Union and assisting and supporting the Soviet rebels in the southern Soviet Republics. Alexander Rokhanov said that the experience gained by the Afghan Mujahideen in Afghanistan was being used in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Karabakh.

Another Soviet journalist, Aritendorivich (ph) who has been a critic of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, told the conference that he was convinced that the war in Afghanistan has not ended, rather this war has now extended to the border areas of the Soviet Union, particularly after complete withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He said that a civil war and nationalist movement was going on in the southern republics of the Soviet Union, which was not likely to end in the near future.

Mr. Alexander Rokhanov said that it was a good gesture that the views of Washington and Moscow were getting closer to each other with regard to the issues in the third world countries. He said that this development was the outcome of the US experience in Vietnam and the Soviet journalists cited the consensus of views between the two super powers regarding the Gulf Crisis. (VOA September 27, 1990).

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Yeltsin for Ban on Arms Delivery, Invites Mujaddedi to Soviet Union

The President of the Russian Federation Mr. Boris Yeltsin has urged a ban on the delivery of weapons to the Afghan government. This corresponds to demand from the rebels in Afghanistan, who still have about three hundred troops of the Soviet army as prisoners.

Mr. Yeltsin also said that his Republic would be banning all arms deliveries to Afghanistan in future. (VOG July 15, 1990).

The head of the Mujahideen alliance, Professor Mujaddedi has been invited by the leader of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin to pay a visit to the Soviet Union to hold talks on the Afghan situation.

Professor Mujaddedi has said that he has accepted the invitation but did not comment on the date of visit and composition of the delegation. (BBC September 10, 1990).

Iran based Groups Establish Office in Peshawar

Reports say that the Iran based Mujahideen Islamic Alliance Shoora has shifted its office to Peshawar.

The spokesman of Mujahideen Islamic Alliance Shoora, Noor Ahmad Taqadasi said that nine parties of the Afghan Mujahideen in Iran have formed am alliance to have a united political stand and step up their activities inside Afghanistan. Some of the components of the alliance have foregone their entities and have formed a united front in the name of Wahdat but all the Hizbs in the Islamic alliance have their own entity. There are five Hizbs in the Alliance. They are Hizbe Qaumi, Ittaefaq Shoora, Harkat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami Afghanistan, Pasdaran-e-Jehad-e-Afghanistan and United Front of Hizbullah.

The spokesman said there are three objectives behind moving the Alliance Centre. First of all, the Shoora will be in a position to have close

contacts with the Afghan Mujahideen inside Afghanistan to organise them. Secondly to have close contacts with Peshawar-based Afghan Mujahideen leaders to find a united political solution of the Afghan conflict. The third objective is to prove that we have a permanent politics and that we are not influenced by others though we are thankful to the government of Iran for giving shelter to us in our hard time.

He said, we were permitted by the government of Pakistan to shift our centre to Peshawar and were recognised as a permanent organisation. He said that for financial assistance we first of all depend on our own people and secondly Pakistani official are also providing financial assistance to us. He said that Pakistan army has given us permission to shift our centre to Peshawar on humanitarian basis. (VOA September 17, 1990).

Commanders Meeting Concluded in Tehran

A meeting of the Afghan Mujahideen commanders after passing a resolution concluded in Tehran. At the meeting, the participants stressed for armed struggle against the communist regime of Najib and for the setting up of an Islamic system in that country.

At the concluding session, Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr. Velayeti, said that the next government in Afghanistan will be an Islamic and democratic and if the people of Afghanistan want to be successful in their struggle they should unite.

The leader of the Harqat-e-Inqilab-e-Islami Afghanistan Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi said that the meeting is a positive step for achievement of an Islamic system in Afghanistan and hailed Iran for giving comprehensive aid to the Afghan refugees. He urged the Afghan Mujahideen to foil designs of the Western countries aimed at undermining their achievements in Afghanistan. Another speaker said that not only the United States and the Soviet Union but the Wahabis are also trying to damage the great achievements of Jehad in Afghanistan. (Radio Tehran August 11, 1990).

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Shia–Sunni Clashes

The Shia community has been launching attacks on the Sunnis in Afghanistan for the last several months in a bid to capture their villages, houses and agricultural farms.

Here we present a part of an interview by BBC of a Commander of Mahaz-e-Milli (National Front), Abdul Qaddus Irfani.

Question: Mr. Irfani, we have come to know that fighting is continuing between the Shias and Sunnis in Khan Uruzgan. What is the cause of this fightings?

Irfani: The reason is that the Hazaras want to get the lands back from the Pushtoons which had been given to them (Pushtoons) by Amir Abdur Rehman Khan in Uruzgan province. That is why they had started aggression on a large scale against the Pushtoons in Uruzgan.

Question: Can you give the number of casualties in the fighting on both sides?

Irfani: The fighting, which began in Uruzgan has now spread to Daya-o-Chopan and Arghandab woleswalis and Zabul province. As far as the casualties are concerned fourteen to fifteen hundred persons have been killed during the clashes in Uruzgan province. However, in the fighting, the Hazaras have suffered heavy casualties in comparison to that of Pushtoons. The reason behind this is that Hazaras are aggressors and the aggressors suffer more than the defenders.

Question: Are the forces of Sheikh Asef Mohsini and Syed Jegran, besides the Iran based organisations also involved in the fighting.

Irfani: Yes, all the groups, whether they are local or based in Iran, have united against the Pushtoons. They are jointly fighting against the Pushtoons so to snatch the lands from them. They had also launched attacks on Wardak province. (BBC August 3, 1990).

Afghanistan Seeks OIC Seat

About the forthcoming OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in Cairo, a spokesman of the Afghan Foreign Ministry has said that under the pressure of several countries and circles the seat of the Afghan government was given to the Peshawar-based extremist bands during the last OIC Foreign Ministers Conference in Riyadh. This step was not only in defiance of the norms of the OIC but was also in contradiction to realities prevailing in our country. The Afghan government, the spokesman said, has made a lot of efforts for restoration of its membership in the OIC. The spokesman said the Afghan government has sent massages to leaders of the Islamic countries asking to support the Afghan government's representation in the Cairo OIC Conference. The Afghan government has also sent delegations to a number of Islamic countries including Iraq in this connection. Similarly, he added the Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has also held talks with a number of Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries during last session of the UN General Assembly in April this year. He maintained that majority of these Foreign Ministers had fully supported the demand of the Afghan government for restoration of its membership in the OIC. They have said that decisions taken at the Riyadh Conference last year under the pressure of Saudi government have now been proved meaningless. Similarly, the Afghan diplomats in various countries are also continuing their efforts for mustering support of the member countries of the OIC. The Afghan Embassy in Cairo has also contacted the Secretariat of the OIC and has conveyed to it the demand and proposals of its government. However, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are opposing membership of Afghanistan in the OIC, the spokesman said. He concluded that the OIC should play its role for restoration of peace in Afghanistan. (Radio Kabul July 30, 1990).

OIC Support Afghan Mujahideen

The Organisation of Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers meeting has supported Afghan Mujahideen's struggle for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan and has decided to continue

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humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees. The conference also decided to work along with Pakistan and Iran for the repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. A delegation of the Afghan Interim Government has for the first time attended the conference. The delegation was led by the Mujahideen leader, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. (Radio B'desh August 5, 1990).

Is Najib Ready to Concede Some of His Powers?

President Najibullah of Afghanistan has said for the first time that he is prepared to concede some of his powers in an effort to find a political solution to the country's twelve year civil war. In a BBC interview he said he was prepared to compromise and transfer some of his powers to a Council representing all Afghan forces. A BBC correspondent says the President has given his most specific signal of a willingness to make concessions although he rejects the demands of Mujahideen leaders to step down.

Over the last few years the main issue in any discussion for an Afghan political settlement has been President Najibullah, the leader, many believed, would fall after Soviet troops withdrew in 1988. In the past, he had made vague statements saying he would step down if this would bring peace although he clearly believes this was not the case. But as Afghan guerrillas failed to create a more credible political alternative, their key ally, the United States recently stopped insisting that President Najibullah must step down at the beginning of any political process. At this week's high-level Soviet-American talks, there is expected to be discussion of a formula whereby the President would remain in office but would give up some key powers during a transitional period expected to lead to elections. President Najibullah's remarks in a BBC interview indicate that he is prepared to make some compromise but he stressed that some of his powers should be given to a Council representing all Afghan forces not to a body of independent Afghans as suggested in some circles and that Afghans had to resolve these issues at the negotiating table under United Nations supervision. But guerrilla leaders

so far refuse to negotiate publicly with a man they charge with numerous political and humanitarian crimes. (BBC July 15, 1990).

The Afghan President, Mr. Najibullah has rejected the proposal to quit power before elections as part of a comprehensive solution of the Afghan conflict.

During recent days, there were talks that if elections are held in Afghanistan, President Najibullah will transfer some of his powers to an interim Council which will transfer affairs of the state till the formation of a new government. However, now President Najibullah during a press conference made it clear that he never expressed the intention to do so. He said "my proposal was to set up a commission for an interim period comprising representatives of Afghanistan government and like-minded Mujahideen with the powers to maintain law and order and keep an eye on every aspect of the elections". However, President Najibullah made it clear that despite this, the Afghan government will have final powers. When asked to comment and to how harmony among the people belonging to different spheres of life is possible regarding elections when there exists differences and rifts among Mujahideen groups fighting against Kabul government, President Najibullah replied that harmony means alliance of those people who want to participate in efforts aimed at establishing peace in Afghanistan. He said it is obvious that guerrilla leaders like Hikmatyar and Sayyaf who are still engaged in guerrilla activities are not included among them. (BBC July 22, 1990).

De-politicising the Afghan Army

The Afghan Defence Minister, General Watanyar has said that the process of depoliticising the army will be difficult, if the war continues in Afghanistan. Talking to foreign journalists, he linked the question of depoliticising the army with the solution of the conflict, saying it was permanent solution to the Afghan issue.

The Afghan armed forces consist of about two and a half lakh personnel, with sixty per cent members of Watan Party. Opponents of

humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees. The conference also decided to work along with Pakistan and Iran for the repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. A delegation of the Afghan Interim Government has for the first time attended the conference. The delegation was led by the Mujahideen leader, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. (Radio B'desh August 5, 1990).

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President Najibullah stress that establishment of real democracy is impossible unless the ruling party gives up control on the armed forces. They demand that the army should be rendered neutral and impartial. The armed forces personnel are members of the intelligence services, having been blamed violating human rights. However, the government says it has brought about many changes in the intelligence agency Khad. In the recently held party congress, many people were seen wearing army uniform. The latest package of proposals, presented by President Najibullah also include his readiness to give up control on the armed forces. Other high-ranking party officials have also been speaking about this proposal, but say this will take some time.

Now general Watanyar has said that giving up control on army is impossible due to the continuing war. It seems that general Watanyar, who was formerly an Army commander and is presently the Defence Minister, does not want that the members of the armed forces get annoyed by this decision. His comments indicate that differences still prevail about the role of the armed forces in politics and that the issue is yet unresolved. (BBC July 19, 1990).

Khad in Changing

The head of Afghanistan's secret service organisation Mr. Ghulam Farooq Yaqubi has said the service is prepared to make concessions as part of a political settlement of the Afghan war. These would include a possible reduction in the scope and scale of its activities. In an interview with the BBC, Mr. Yaqubi admitted the agency had committed abuses in the past but he insisted that since 1980 there had been, what he called, gradual improvement.

In his first interview with a Western journalist the Minister Ghulam Farooq Yaqubi admitted continuing suspicion of the organisation but he insisted that since 1980 when the current President, Najibullah was its Director, there had been what he called, gradual improvement. His cautious remarks highlights the government's new, but still limited openness about its much criticised past, a past which Mujahideen leaders

say still cannot be forgiven. Kabul residents noted some changes like a lighter prison conditions in the main Pule-Churki prison are said to have improved. Mr. Yaqubi maintained that its political and military pressures have decreased and the agency was changing. Informed sources say that as part of any political settlement, the state Security Ministry could be reduced to an intelligence bureau. Asked about the agency's reputed heavy handedness,he pointed to what he described as the very complicated situation and a high level of terrorist activity. Many security measures as he put it, had to be taken. There may have been mistakes and shortcomings, he said. He also pointed out that employees guilty of abuses including torture were now being persecuted. (BBC July 17, 1990).

Military Officers Arrested

The Afghan Government has held six General on charge of hatching conspiracy against Najib regime. According to the daily FRONTIER POST's report, the allegations against these officials are their involvement in a coup attempt against the Kabul regime. The daily says that both the army and air force of the Afghanistan government were involved in this coup. This report further says that in spite of these serious allegations, the Kabul government is not in a position to charge them with conspiracy because of pressure from the Soviet military advisors and so that Kabul regime has been asked to send all the arrested persons to Soviet Union. (Radio Tehran September 22, 1990).

Former Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Arrested by India

The former Afghan Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Assadullah Sarwari who was allegedly involved in plot to overthrow Najibullah government has been arrested by the Indian intelligence.

Mr. Assadullah Sarwari had fled Afghanistan after abortive coup attempt in February this year. The Afghan government says he was involved in the coup. President Najibullah has announced a reward of ten lakh dollars for the arrest of Assadullah Sarwari. The Indian government

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sources say that Afghan Ambassador in Delhi had informed about his presence in February but later he went underground and a clue in this connection was found three weeks ago. The Indian police has arrested Mr. Sarwari on the charge of staying in India without having travel documents. Now the Afghan government is urging India to extradite Mr. Sarwari. Indian authorities are in dilemma over the issue. They know that Mr. Sarwari is known as a brutal man. However, they fear that his life may be in danger if he is handed over to Afghan government. Different Muslim organisation struggling against Najibullah government have called on India not to hand over Mr. Sarwari to the Afghan government. Mr. Sarwari is a staunch Communist and an active leader of the Khalq party. He had played an active role in toppling Daud government twelve years ago. The first Communist Afghan President, Noor Mohammad Tarkai had appointed him as Chief of Afghan Intelligence but Mr. Sarwari engineered rebellion against him. He also organised coup against Tarkai's successor Mr. Hafeezullah Amin. Babrak Karmal made him his Deputy as a reward but soon his decline started and he was appointed Ambassador to Mongolia. Till the abortive coup against Najibullah, Mr. Sarwari was in Mongolia. (BBC July 11, 1990).

Law Passed on Political Parties

President Najibullah of Afghanistan has signed a new law on political parties confirming the establishment of a multi-party system in that country. The basic provisions of the law demands an end to arms struggle against state power, respect for Islam and Afghan national traditions as well as the compulsory presence of steering party bodies in Kabul. In accordance with the law neither Judge nor Attorney Generals have the right to affiliate with political parties. (Radio Moscow September 7, 1990).

Chief Justice Dismissed

The Chief Justice of Afghanistan, Mr. Nizamuddin Tehzeeb has been removed from his office. A statement says that this action has been taken under the new constitution of Afghanistan under which members of political parties cannot discharge the duties of Judges or Attorneys.

The constitution was amended in May, since then the biggest victim of this amendment is the Chief Justice of Afghanistan. He is a senior member of the Watan Party of President Najibullah.

The statement says that many other judges and attorneys will lose their offices in the next few months.

President Najibullah made amendments in the constitution under his recent peace plan, which was aimed at making the country's system more and more democratic and setting up judiciary free from the politics of party. (BBC July 9, 1990).

Najib Visit France

President Najibullah visited Paris at the head of a high powered delegation, to take part in the UN sponsored conference of the least developed countries.

Earlier the Afghan President Najibullah held a meeting with the Assistant Coordinator of UN assistance for Afghanistan, in Paris. They held talks on the matters relating to the programme of the return of the Afghan refugees and provision of assistance to the refugees. (Radio Kabul September 6, 1990).

UN Officials in Tehran and Kabul

Two officials of the United Nations have reached Tehran for holding talks on finding a solution of the Afghan conflict. The main objective of their talks will be to pave the ground for the formation of a broad based government in Kabul. Diplomatic sources at the United Nations say that these fresh negotiations are taking place in Pakistan and Afghanistan in the light of the recent meetings between the two guarantors of the Geneva Accords, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Correspondent in the United Nations says the meetings are also taking place at a time when there are varying speculations about the

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future political role of President Najibullah who is now in Moscow for the last three weeks. (BBC August 28, 1990).

President Najibullah received for a meeting the special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Benon Sevan at his office. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests. Later the Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil held a meeting at his office with Benon Sevan. During the meeting they discussed matters pertaining to the progress made in the direction of political settlement of the Afghan problem. (Radio Kabul July 21, 1990).

Hatif in Iraq

Vice President, Abdul Rahim Hatif at the head of a delegation visited Iraq. During his visit, the Afghan Vice President, delivered a message of the Afghan President Najibullah to the Iraqi President Saddam Hussain. The Iraqi President assured him of his country's all out cooperation to Afghanistan. (Radio Kabul July 27, 1990).

Switzerland–Afghanistan Establish Contact

Switzerland and Afghanistan today resumed their first official contact in eleven years, during talks at Ministerial level in Bern. The Swiss Foreign Minister and his Afghan counterpart, Abdul Wakil discussed peace efforts to end the civil conflict in Afghanistan and relations between their two countries. A Ministry spokesman said humanitarian assistance and re-construction aid were also a prominent topic for discussion. (Radio Switzerland August 17, 1990).

Indo–Afghan Relations

India is looking to establish closer relations including possible military cooperation with the Soviet-led Afghan Government. The Indian Minister of State for External Affairs who is on a visit to Kabul said that the Afghan President, Mr. Najibullah has accepted an invitation to visit India within a month. The Indian Minister said the visit will provide further opportunities to expand bilateral relations. (ABC July 24, 1990).

The Pakistani daily, Jang, reports on the basis of agreement between India and Afghanistan, the Indian government will use Afghan territory in case of war between India and Pakistan. The daily adds, the agreement was signed between the two countries during a high powered Indian delegations' recent visit to Afghanistan. In the agreement, it has been stressed that the Indian Air Force will use, Afghan air ports for attacks on Pakistani territory. (Radio Tehran, July 21, 1990).

Kabul Support India on Kashmir

Afghanistan has strongly condemned Pakistan's support to terrorist elements in Punjab and Kashmir. It has also reiterated its full support to India's stand on the Kashmir issue. The position of Kabul was made clear during the two-day talks between the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Hari Kishor Singh and top Afghan leaders including President Najib in Kabul this week. (AIR July 25, 1990).

India Assured Afghanistan of Assistance

India has assured its help to Afghanistan for the quick establishment of peace in that country.

The offer was made by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Hari Kishwar Singh who is in Kabul on a two-day visit to Afghanistan.

Mr. Singh has held talks with the Afghan Foreign Minister on matters relating to regional, bilateral and economic cooperation and reviewed the decisions taken in the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission in New Delhi last month.

He also met the Afghan President, Dr. Najib and extended an invitation to him to visit India. (AIR July 24, 1990).

Superpowers Negotiations on Afghanistan

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Superpowers Negotiations on Afghanistan

Afghan issue came up for discussion at the meeting between US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze in the Siberian town of Irkutsk. The purpose of the Ministerial-level meeting between the two countries is exchange of views on the next US-Soviet summit and European security, therefore, there is no possibility that any new proposal or an effective strategy about Afghan issue would be discussed at these talks. Referring to the eleven-year-old Afghan issue, Mr. Shevardnadze said they would certainly discuss the problem but it is not correct to expect any new or immediate solution at their talks. He also denied any link of the somewhat lengthy tour of Afghan President Najibullah to the Soviet Union with the Afghan issue. Radio Kabul on Sunday had only said that President Najibullah had left for a brief visit to the Soviet Union for recreation and treatment. On getting no further details from the official broadcasting organisation some political circles were speculating that the Soviet government now wants to keep the controversial personality of Najibullah away from the tense situation in Afghanistan so that an early solution is explored. But, Soviet officials said there is no truth in these speculations as President Najib has come to the Soviet Union only for vacations. After the beginning of negotiations a Soviet official said, many difficulties still exist in the solution of the complex Afghan issue which ought to be removed. However, the two leaders may agree on some type of a commission to study the possibility of holding elections in Afghanistan.

On this occasion, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze once again pointed out that though the super powers can assist in solving the Afghan issue, a solution of the conflict does not lie in the decisions of these two countries. (VOG August 8, 1990).

Afghanistan's acting President, Mr. Abdul Rahim Hatif has said in Kabul that tomorrow's meeting between the American Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze would bring a final settlement to the Afghan war. The meeting is to be held in Siberia.

Afghanistan's President Najibullah left Kabul for the Soviet Union on a previously unannounced trip which was initially described by the office as a trip for medical examination.

Mr. Hatif said that Mr. Najibullah will not directly take part in the Soviet-American meeting but would be availing for consultation. The Acting President added that Mr. Najibullah has the full backing of his government to negotiate on his peace plan announced last week. (ABC July 31, 1990).

The Soviet Union and the United States say they have achieved closer understanding on ways to end the conflicts in Afghanistan and Cambodia. Their statement came at the end of two days of talks in Siberia between the American Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze. The two men said they had concentrated on ensuring a transitional period in Afghanistan to allow the holding of democratic elections under international supervision. (BBC August 2, 1990).

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary on Afghan Issue

The daily MUSLIM has published the following report based on an interview of the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan about the political settlement of the Afghan conflict.

"The time has come closer for the solution of Afghan problem, within the next few months. Prompt measures would be taken now on two levels. The Mujahideen are making preparations for elections. The Pakistan government is ready to assist the Mujahideen in implementing the election plan. The US and Soviet Foreign Ministers recently discussed Afghanistan and reduced their differences. All the concerned sides have reached the conclusion that the only solution to Afghanistan problem is through general election. However, differences still prevail on the method of elections. The Mujahideen are of the view that elections should first be held in areas under their control. But the super powers say that they should be simultaneously held throughout the country. Another important question here is as to who will supervise these election. The super powers intend to assign the UN with the task of supervising the elections, but the Mujahideen have so far taken no decision to this effect. Some of the Mujahideen groups say that the

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election should be held under the supervision of the UN and the OIC, while others insist that the Mujahideen themselves should conduct these elections.

The Foreign Secretary said that Pakistan had to play an important role in the political solution of Afghanistan problem, because there are three million Afghan refugees on its soil, who would not agree to return to their country until a satisfactory solution to the problem is found. He said though Pakistan has recently asked the refugees to return home, but the response was quite poor. (VOA August 16, 1990).

Peter Tomsen, Robert Oaklay Speaks on Afghanistan

VOA correspondent interviewed Mr. Peter Tomsen, the US Special Envoy to the Afghan resistance.

When Mr. Peter Tomsen was asked as to what issues were agreed upon by the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to the Afghan problem, he said that even before the start of negotiations between the US Secretary of State and his Soviet counterpart in Irkutsk, the newspapers had published reports that both the sides had reached an agreement on Afghanistan. Then the ABC television reported that like the Kabul regime, the Afghan Mujahideen had also accepted the agreement. But he added that after Irkutsk talks, it was reported that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze and the US Secretary of State, Mr. Baker did not reach any agreement on Afghanistan. Mr. Tomsen said that all these reports were incorrect. He said that in fact progress was made about the settlement of the Afghan conflict during US-Soviet summit and Irkutsk meeting. It was also agreed upon during these meetings that a plan should be chalked out for a political settlement of the Afghan problem. Mr. Tomsen further said that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze as having said that there was a need of holding of free and fair elections in Afghanistan. Mr. James Baker also endorsed Mr. Shevardnadze's views. Mr. Tomsen said that they also agreed on transitional period leading to the elections and there should be a mechanism to conduct the transition. They agreed to ask the United

Nations and Organisation of Islamic Conference to assist the Afghans in elections. The Soviet Union says that Najib and his associate should hold control of the government during transitional period while the United States rejected this plea. After Irkutsk talks, there would be further dialogue on experts level in Washington during next few weeks. Mr. Tomsen added that Mujahideen leaders, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would also be informed of this meeting. When the US special envoy to the Afghan Resistance was asked that if the unsettled issues between the United States and the Soviet Union were agreed upon then, when its announcement will be made. He replied that it is very difficult to predict. In the past the Soviet Union was talking about recognition of the Najib's government and was opposing elections. But now it has officially favoured holding of elections to form a new government through these elections. Mr. Tomsen said that it was the Soviet Union which had installed Najib's government. He said that the Kabul regime was dependent on the Soviet assistance but its own economy was very sick. So it will be in the interest of the Soviet Union to decide about the transfer of power in Afghanistan and allow holding of free elections. But prediction cannot be made about the Soviet decision. When Mr. Tomsen was asked that if the two countries reached an agreement on forthcoming experts level meeting would it be announced in the next Ministerial level meeting or summit conference? He replied that the US and Soviet Foreign Ministers would again meet in Moscow in September and they may also meet at the United Nations. Mr. Tomsen predicted that it may be announced in one of the Ministerial meetings or the forthcoming Summit conference. When Mr. Peter Tomsen was asked that whether the US allies like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would be consulted if an agreement on Afghanistan between the super powers is reached? He said that the United States was in close touch with these countries and the Mujahideen were also being kept informed about the US-Soviet talks. He added that like the US government, the US Congress would also support its country's supply assistance to the Mujahideen. Mr. Tomsen was asked whether the Mujahideen would accept the agreement on Afghanistan between the two super powers. He replied that the US stand was like that of the Mujahideen. The United States would never take steps which may spoil the sacrifices of the Mujahideen. The United States has been

election should be held under the supervision of the UN and the OIC, while others insist that the Mujahideen themselves should conduct these elections.

The Foreign Secretary said that Pakistan had to play an important role in the political solution of Afghanistan problem, because there are three million Afghan refugees on its soil, who would not agree to return to their country until a satisfactory solution to the problem is found. He said though Pakistan has recently asked the refugees to return home, but the response was quite poor. (VOA August 16, 1990).

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supporting the Mujahideen for the last ten years and would continue to support them. Mr. Tomsen stressed that no foreign power can impose its will on the Afghans. He said that the Soviet Union would accept holding of free and just elections in Afghanistan if the Mujahideen made progress in both the political and military fields. He concluded that the United States would not impose anything on the Mujahideen. (VOA, August 5, 1990).

The US Ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley has addressed a press conference in Washington and spoke about the situation in South-Asia. He has also touched upon Afghanistan problem.

Mr. Robert Oakley said that in spite of Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan, there remained many problems to be sorted out. He said that a consensus about ensuring the right to self-determination for the Afghan people, the return of refugees to their homes and the re-construction of the country were essential for resorting peace in Afghanistan. Like its role in the military field, Mr. Robert Oakley said, Pakistan can also play a significant role in political solution of Afghanistan conflict. He said that the United States was working for accomplishing these objectives in collaboration with Pakistan and other concerned countries. He said the United States had not curtailed its assistance to the Afghan refugees. Regarding the solution of the issue, Robert Oakley said, such a method of settlement of the conflict should be sorted out which is not only acceptable to majority of the Afghan people but also to the neighbouring countries so that the non-aligned status of Afghanistan is restored. However, Mr. Oakley said Afghanistan was no longer a source of instability for the region, nor in the current fighting inside Afghanistan of the kind, which involve regional or international powers. He said that his country was supporting all political and humanitarian efforts for solution of Afghanistan problem, return of refugees and re-construction of Afghanistan.

He said that Najib was, in no way, acceptable to the Afghan people and that the matter has also been discussed with the Soviet Union and other concerned countries. He said that the sustenance of Najibullah's

government was repugnant to the right of self-determination of the Afghan people. He said that the right of the Afghan people to self-determination could only be ensured through such general elections, which are free from the influence of Najib government and are held under the supervision of the United Nations and the OIC. He said that the interim-Mujahideen government is torn with rifts and has not survived the tests of the time, adding that the Afghan people were not in favour of such people who confine leadership of the country to themselves. He said that a broad-based leadership should be brought to the front. He said that like the people of Nicaragua and certain other countries, the Afghans should also be given a chance to determine their own future, Mr. Oakley said mere talks were not enough, adding that military should also not be ignored. He maintained that a government which has consolidated itself with foreign support can never be toppled through talks. Mr. Oakley said that like Afghanistan, a civil war was also going on in Cambodia, but several agreements about peace have been concluded there. He concluded that the United States and the Soviet Union were working for restoration of peace in Afghanistan and that Pakistan was also likely to join these efforts. (VOA September 13, 1990).

Reduction in US Assistance

The Intelligence Committee of the US Senate has suggested that the US assistance to the Afghan Mujahideen should be reduced by one third. The US Congress is of the view that when the question of Communism has been sorted out in the world, then there is no need of expenditure against Communism. A BBC correspondent's report from Washington reveals.

The US Congress is airing its un-willingness with Washington's Afghan policy for quite some time. Though the Soviet troops have returned from Afghanistan, the Mujahideen have achieved no victory to the satisfaction of the CIA and instead of forming a united front against the Kabul government, they are at loggerheads with each other. The Congress was supporting the Mujahideen and favouring the secret

supporting the Mujahideen for the last ten years and would continue to support them. Mr. Tomsen stressed that no foreign power can impose its will on the Afghans. He said that the Soviet Union would accept holding of free and just elections in Afghanistan if the Mujahideen made progress in both the political and military fields. He concluded that the United States would not impose anything on the Mujahideen. (VOA, August 5, 1990).

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assistance of the CIA to them, as long as they were in war with the Soviet troops. The Mujahideen used to receive four million dollars aid per year.

The first sign of decrease in Congress support for the Mujahideen became known when the Senate Intelligence Committee decided one hundred million dollars out in this aid. They are not only the Afghan Mujahideen who have suffered due to improvement in super power's relations. The same Congress Committee has also decided to stop assistance to Cambodian rebels while the aid for Afghan guerrillas is also under threat. Supporters of the Mujahideen like Senator Gordan Humphrey have promised to restore the previous aid. However, the posture of the Congress in reducing the aid, shows that it is impossible. The decision of the Senate Committee has come at a time when the Soviet Union and the United States have stepped up diplomatic efforts to sort out some kind of Settlement of the Afghanistan problem. (BBC July 25, 1990).

RECONSTRUCTION

Najib Visit Soviet Union

On August 23rd, the Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had a meeting with the Afghan President Najibullah. Najibullah has been on holiday in the Soviet Union since July 29. Alex Shadrov has this comments:-

"Official reports say Gorbachev began his talks with the Afghan leaders by describing the situation in the Soviet Union. The acute economic crisis in the country and his forthcoming transfer to market economy will inevitably entail a few economy measures and the need to deal with the budget deficit. In these conditions, it become more difficult for the President and the government to justify the need, a large-scale assistance to the Soviet Union's major allies including Afghanistan among others. It is not accidental, therefore, the Soviet side hoped during the talks about the importance of making the Soviet-Afghan relations more profitable. It does not mean at all that the nature of traditional friendly

relations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan should be reconsidered. But as it was pointed out certain aspects of Soviet help to Afghanistan, arms deliveries first and foremost are turning more and more into heavy economic and political burden. The Soviet Union called on many occasions for halting all supplies of foreign made weapons to all the opposing sides on a balance basis. That question was discussed during the recent meeting between Shevardnadze and the American Secretary of State, James Baker in Irkutsk. Today the solution of this problem does not seem to be unrealistic. American press comments indicate that American governing quarters are gradually departing from their firmly negative stand on arms deliveries. I like to stress again that this tendency is unsteady so far, but this tendency does not exist. The progress of the Afghan people, themselves on the road of national reconstruction, is a factor acquiring the size of importance today. The prospects of holding a nation wide general election has lately been becoming more pronounced. The flexible policy of the Afghan government, some latest initiatives put forward by President Najibullah contribute to this process. Regretfully, the irreconcilable Afghan opposition pressing for the removal of Najibullah and his government from the political scene, fails to demonstrate similar preparedness for a dialogue. A reference to the policy of these circles, President Gorbachev said it was destructive in relation to the whole country and those circles and its international potential. But consultations on Afghanistan stepped up recently, suggest that no side involved in the conflict is interested in the searching of a reasonable compromise and this is the most important things, Alex Shadrov writes in conclusion. (Radio Moscow August 24, 1990).

UN–Afghan Economic Cooperation

A meeting between the Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahid Sarabi, the Deputy Coordinator of the UN Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan, Zia Rizvi, and the Incharge of Operation Salam, the representative of the Soviet Union was held in Kabul. The meeting discussed matters relating to the Soviet assistance to Afghanistan under Operation Salam. The Afghan side expressed gratitude for the one hundred million roubles Soviet assistance to

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Afghanistan under which food stuff and essential commodities were supplied to Afghanistan in 1988 and 1989. (Radio Kabul July 15, 1990).

The Afghan Prime Minister, Mr. Fazle Haq Khaliqyar held a meeting with the head of UN Development Programme in Kabul. The Prime Minister discussed with him the UN assistance to Afghanistan in the social and economic fields.

The head of the UN Development Programme apprised the Prime Minister of the readiness of the UN agencies to extend assistance to Afghanistan for the disabled and war affectees, agriculture and rural development, civil aviation, communication, solar energy and reconstruction of Afghanistan. The Afghan Prime Minister hailed the efforts of the UN Secretary General Mr. Pereze de Cuellar for ending war and maintaining peace and for humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the UN would increase financial and economic assistance for social and economic projects in Kabul and other provinces. (Radio Kabul August 13, 1990).

The FAO has asked for an emergency assistance to Afghanistan for pest control in the northern parts of the country. The FAO officials express the fear of shortage of food stuff and famine in Afghanistan next year. A report from Kabul reveals:-

The FAO officials say that if a programme for pest control was not implemented in Afghanistan, the wheat crop on half a million acre of land would be destroyed. The damage to crops in Afghanistan started last year and now there is a danger of starvation and famine in these areas. A FAO official has said that the UN relief agency for Afghanistan and the FAO are implementing a pest control programme in Afghanistan. He added that the required chemicals would be distributed among the people both in the areas under the Mujahideen and Kabul regime control.

The FAO says that it needs the Soviet, Japanese and British assistance in this regard. If the required chemicals could not reach the affected areas of Afghanistan till next winter, eighty per cent of crops would be destroyed. Both the organisations have asked for three

hundred and fifty tons of pest control chemicals from the Soviet Union and Japan. They have also asked Britain for supply of spray machines. If these countries did not provide assistance, the FAO can not implement its programme and it would result in the destruction of crops in a vast area of Afghanistan. (BBC July 14, 1990).

Soviet-Afghan Economic Cooperation

An inter-governmental Soviet-Afghan Economic Cooperation Commission completed its session in Moscow on August 3, 1990. It surveyed economic contracts after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan last February.

The two sides emphasised that these ties continue to develop for mutual interest. The Afghan delegation pointed out that cooperation with the Soviet Union was a major factor of economic activity in Afghanistan. It has a favourable effect on the process of national reconstruction.

The Commission marked out concrete measures to promote Soviet-Afghan economic and trade contacts. (Radio Moscow August 3, 1990).

According to an AFP report, the Kabul regime spokesman has said that under the agreement signed in the 9th meeting of Soviet-Afghanistan Commission last week, the Soviet Union will increase its wheat export from 100,000 tons to 400,000 tons and fuel from 50,000 tons to 450,000 tons to Afghanistan during the current year.

The Kabul Communist regime is facing the shortage of fuel including oil and gas.

On the other hand the governments of Kabul and Moscow have decided to resume the exploration of gas in northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border. Exploration of gas was suspended there last year due to security problems. (VIRA, August 16, 1990).

A protocol of worth two million Roubles aid between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan was signed in Kabul.

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The proposal was signed by the Afghan Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Sarwar Mangal and the Deputy Chairman of the Soviet wing of the Soviet-Afghan Economic Cooperation Commission, Egor Afgorovech in the presence of the Afghan Planning Minister, Dr. Abdul Wahid Sarabi.

Similarly two other protocols, regarding the construction of fifteen residential units in Hairatan city and sending of experts in the fields of oil and gas to Afghanistan were also signed between the two countries in Kabul on July 14, 1990. (Radio Kabul July 14, 1990).

The Afghan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning, Dr. Abdul Wahid Sarabi met the Soviet delegation, led by Mr. Yaqubov currently on a visit to Afghanistan in connection with the implementation of the UN-sponsored Operation Salam, under which economic and humanitarian assistance will be provided to that country.

The delegation informed Dr. Sarabi about the process of providing UN assistance to Afghanistan. Both the sides expressed satisfaction over the response of the world community and the United Nations in providing humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan. Dr. Sarabi expressed readiness of his government for extending necessary facilities to the concerned agencies for providing assistance to the Afghan people. He described the act of the United Nations in this connection as positive and thanked the Soviet Union for the assistance.

A spokesman of the planning Ministry has said that the Soviet Union is spending one hundred and fifty million roubles on sixty six projects, under the UN humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan. (Radio Kabul July 11, 1990).

The daily *Washington Times* writes that the Soviet Union recently reduced oil supply to its close ally, the Kabul regime. This was stated by an observer of the Afghan affairs. The reduction in the oil supply, which has also been confirmed by the US Congress, shows as to what extent the Soviet economy has been shattered. Najib regime is dependent on Soviet oil and other basic products and Moscow has been supplying

material and equipment worth almost three million dollars to Kabul every month. The senior US officials say that Moscow had surprised the people by increasing its assistance to the Kabul regime after the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. US officials say that if the Soviet oil supply has been reduced, it would have been due to the crippled Soviet economy and had no political reasons. The Soviet Union reduced its oil supply to all the world countries and Afghanistan may be one of them. (VOA August 1, 1990).

India Ready to Help in Reconstruction

Indian government and public organisations are working for developing multilateral, mutual beneficial cooperation with Afghanistan. Radio Moscow correspondent reports from the Indian capital:-

Delhi is sincerely interested in rendering all kinds of aid to Afghanistan particularly in restoring its war devasted economy, note local observers. Under the decisions taken by the recent session of Indian-Afghan Joint Commission, Indian expert will shortly leave for Kabul. They will define on the spot the concrete ways to realize a programme and projects for the two countries which will include health services, industry, education and training skilled workers and specialists. Joint ventures are to be launched and new forms of cooperation in the fields of energy, meteorology and tourism established. Economists find prospects are good for broadening bilateral trade. More business cooperation between India and Afghanistan is in the interest of both nations and will consolidate peace and stability in the region. (Radio Moscow July 12, 1990).

REPATRIATION

Pak-UN Sponsored Repatriation Plan

An experimental programme of voluntary return of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is beginning on July 25. The government of Pakistan and united Nations relief organisations have chalked out a joint strategy to make this programme a success under which financial assistance is being provided to the returning Afghan families. The details of the programme were

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India Ready to Help in Reconstruction

Indian government and public organisations are working for developing multilateral, mutual beneficial cooperation with Afghanistan. Radio Moscow correspondent reports from the Indian capital:-

Delhi is sincerely interested in rendering all kinds of aid to Afghanistan particularly in restoring its war devasted economy, note local observers. Under the decisions taken by the recent session of Indian-Afghan Joint Commission, Indian expert will shortly leave for Kabul. They will define on the spot the concrete ways to realize a programme and projects for the two countries which will include health services, industry, education and training skilled workers and specialists. Joint ventures are to be launched and new forms of cooperation in the fields of energy, meteorology and tourism established. Economists find prospects are good for broadening bilateral trade. More business cooperation between India and Afghanistan is in the interest of both nations and will consolidate peace and stability in the region. (Radio Moscow July 12, 1990).

REPATRIATION

Pak-UN Sponsored Repatriation Plan

An experimental programme of voluntary return of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is beginning on July 25. The government of Pakistan and united Nations relief organisations have chalked out a joint strategy to make this programme a success under which financial assistance is being provided to the returning Afghan families. The details of the programme were

officially announced last week under which every family will be provided three thousand and three hundred Pakistani Rupees and three hundred kilograms of wheat which will be sufficient for the family for three months. The programme has been prepared keeping in view the fact that some people had returning to the areas controlled by the Afghan Mujahideen after the Soviet withdrawal. But most of them were those who were registered in the Pakistani camps and does not possess ration cards. The number of registered refugees is said to be around thirty lakhs. The ration cards will be taken back from the refugees who would like to return to Afghanistan. The money which is enough for three months will be paid in one instalment. They will be provided facilities by the United Nations for rehabilitation even after their return to Afghanistan. The officials statement said that United Nations centres have already been established in many provinces particularly Herat, Kandahar, Kunar and Paktiya. They are assisting homeless Afghans in their rehabilitation. The incharge of the United Nations Relief Programme, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan had stated during talks with the members of the Afghan interim government in Peshawar in April last that the fighting in some Afghan areas had stopped hence the work of rehabilitation could be started there by declaring them peace zones. The interim government had opposed the proposal. (VOA July 23, 1990).

Mujahideen Reaction to Repatriation Plan

The Mujahideen press carried reports about the viewpoints of the Mujahideen leaders regarding return of the refugees to their homeland. Quoting a press statement of the President of AIG, Sebghatullah Mujaddadi, MIDIA reported that amidst continued fightings inside Afghanistan and being in power of the puppet regime in Kabul, the UN plan about the repatriation of the refugees seems meaningless, Mujaddadi said that every moment and at any place there was a danger of the bombardment of the Kabul regime planes and under such situation, the Interim Government cannot guarantee the security of the refugees inside Afghanistan. The Afghan refugees would themselves be responsible for the consequences of any harm to them. At the same time

Mujaddadi Sahib said that the Interim Government would not block the way of any refugee, intending to return voluntarily to Afghanistan.

Chief of Jamiat Islami Afghanistan and Minister of Reconstruction in the AIG, Ustad Burhanuddin Rabbani has said that at a time when the Kabul regime had not been toppled, all kinds of Soviet assistance were continuing to it, about a million mines were laying in the country, aerial and rocket attacks were continuing on the villages and towns and agriculture had been destroyed, the return of the refugees seems illogical and impossible and amounts to violation of all international norms and human rights. It may be pointed out that the Prime Minister of AIG, Ustad Sayyaf, Chief of Hizbe Islami, Younas Khalis had already condemned the UN plan for the repatriation of the refugees. Similarly leaders of the four independent organisations, Qazi Ahmed Amin Waqar, Maulvi Nasrullah Mansoor, Maulvi Jameelur Rehman and Engineer Rafiullah have not endorsed the UN-sponsored plan. Moreover, majority of the refugees in the camps rejects the idea of their return with the arguments that every thing has been destroyed in the country and there is no guarantee for their security there because fighting is still continuing in Afghanistan between the Mujahideen and government troops. (VOA July 30, 1990).

UN Delegation in Kabul

The Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Nematullah Pazhwak held a meeting with the Deputy Coordinator of the UN Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan, Mr. Zia Rizvi and his delegation.

Various matters relating to the return of Afghan refugees to their country, implementation of Operation Salam and providing appropriate facilities for the returnees were discussed at the meeting.

Similarly, the Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil also held a meeting with the UN delegation in his office. The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude for the UN assistance to Afghanistan and assured his government's readiness to help implement Operation Salam.

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Another report says that the Minister for the Affairs of Returnees also held a meeting with the delegation and discussed matters relating to the affairs of returning refugees. (Radio Kabul July 16, 1990).

The Afghan Prime Minister's office reports that the Afghan Council of Ministers has set up a Special Commission for regulating the arrangements for the return of refugees. The Special Commission, which started functioning today (July 30) is headed by the Prime Minister, Fazal Haq Khaliqyar and includes several Ministers.

The Commission will discuss problems relating to the return of Afghan refugees and will adopt necessary measures in this connection. (Radio Kabul July 30, 1990).

Land Mines Still a Major Problem for Returning Refugees

Officials of the United Nations and workers of the aid agencies say that unexploded mines and bombs pose serious threat to the refugees intending to return to their homeland. They say that this threat is more serious than the sporadic clashes between the government troops and Mujahideen. It is believed that in the rural areas, million of mines had been planted during Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The UN project, Salam has purchased a new mine sweeping machine which should accelerate the process of demining rural areas in Afghanistan. The mine-sweeping is a bulldozer like machine made of twelve tons of pure steel. The machine has been manufactured by a Scotland company. It can be used for sweeping anti-personnel mines and big anti-tank mines. During an experiment at a training centre at Salam project in Risalpur camp this machine proved that it can defuse eight anti-personnel mines at a time. The Salam project has purchased two machines of this type. The officials of the project say they intend to purchase ten more mine-sweepers by the end of this year. The instructor of Scotland company and his Afghan colleagues may start their work inside Afghanistan within few weeks. The UN officials say that besides the new mine-sweeper about one hundred thousand refugees have been trained in identifying mines and other ten thousands have been trained as to how to defuse the mines. Fifteen

dogs trained in mine-sweeping have been brought to Pakistan from Thailand but certain difficulties have craped up in the use of these dogs because they do not understand Pushto and the Afghans cannot speak Thai language. Now it is being suggested that the Thai instructors will teach Thai language to those Afghans being deputed to handle the dogs. The United Nations officials also say that the Kabul regime authorities have assured them that they will not meddle in the mine-sweeping activities of the United Nations. Some aid agencies for the Afghan refugees have also criticised the mine-sweeping project of the United Nations for its slow pace of work. For instance sources say that talks between the United Nations and the Scotland company took two years in reaching the agreement. And inside Afghanistan, UN officials say that now their efforts can make headway, as normalcy has returned to several parts of Afghanistan. We may say with regret that a large number of the Afghan refugees upon their return may come across mines in their gardens and agricultural fields. (VOA July 23, 1990).

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